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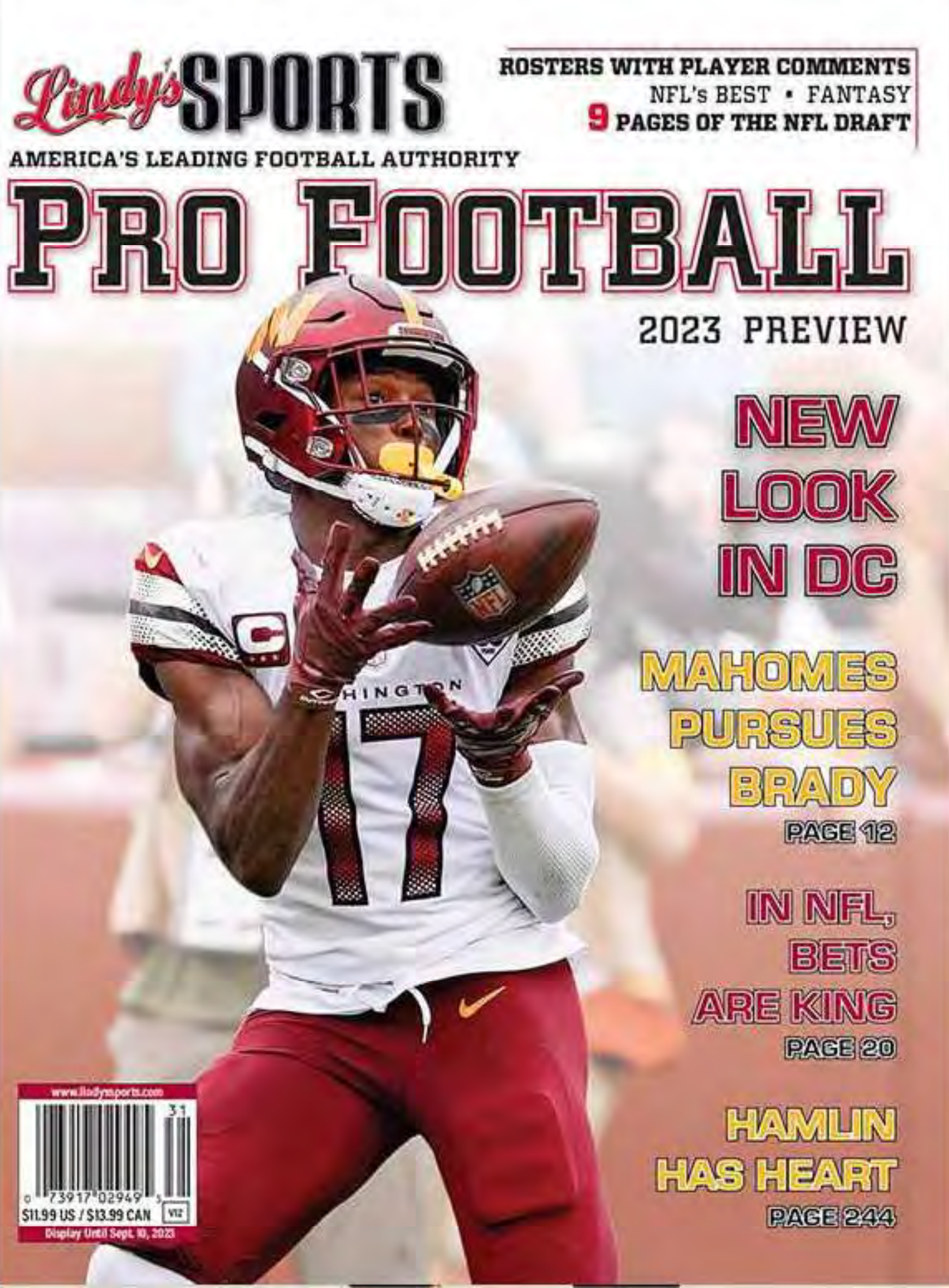

## NEW LOOK IN DC

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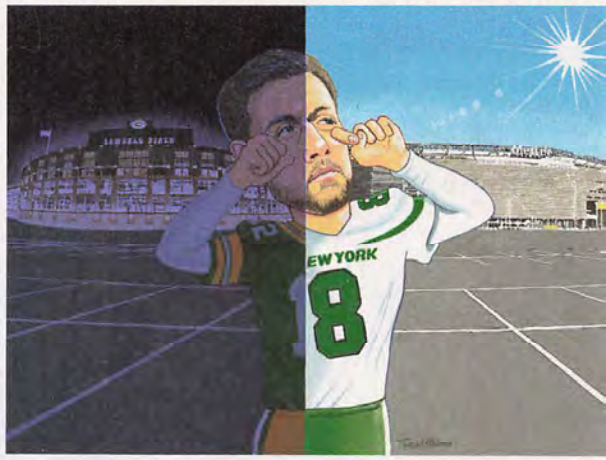


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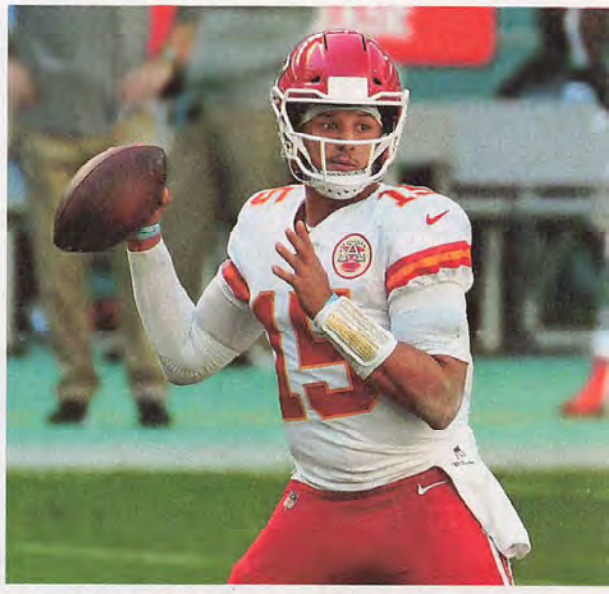

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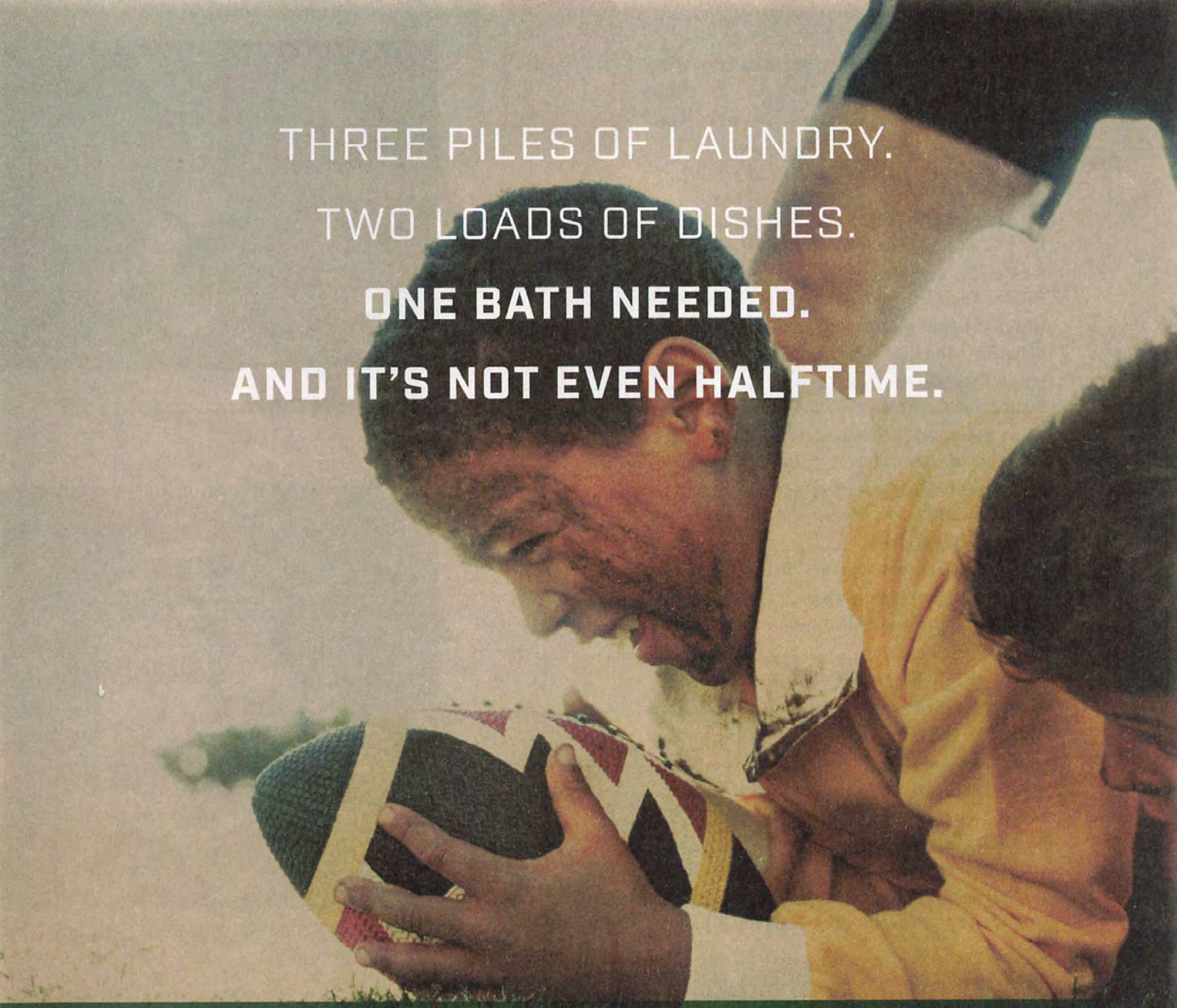


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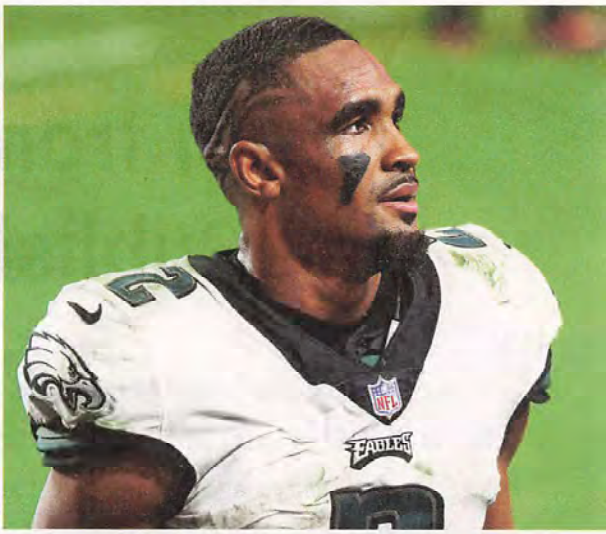

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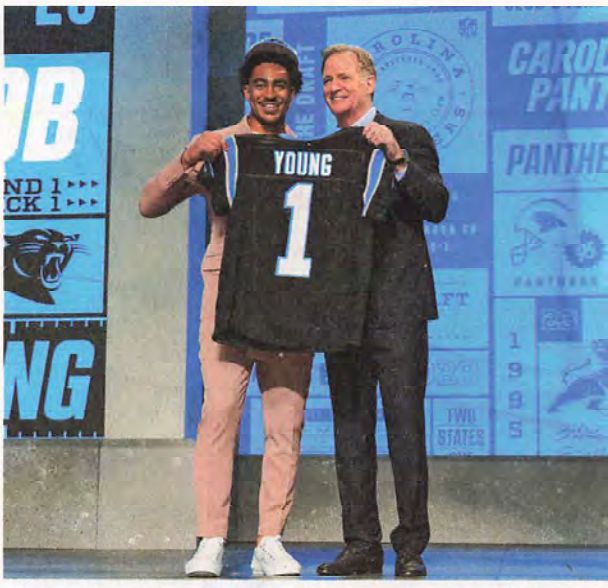


2023 NFL DRAFT ..... 118

# Letter from the Publisher

So Tom Brady has retired for good this time. There is now a new face of the NFL — Patrick Mahomes. DJ Siddiqi takes a look at these two legends at the early stages of their career and what Mahomes would need to do in his career to become the GOAT (page 12).

Remember when the NFL was dead set against gambling? How things have changed! Jeff Edelstein takes a look at the NFL's 180 degree turn on the matter beginning on page 20.

The whole nation was mesmerized as Damar Hamlin fell to the turf on Monday Night Football against the Cincinnati Bengals. His remarkable story is told by Vic Carrucci in Keeping the Faith on page 244.

Barry Wilner gives you the best Draft analysis that you will find anywhere beginning on page 118.

Have a great season!

Sincerely,

Lindy Davis, Jr.

Lindy Davis, Jr.

**D.M.D. Publications, Inc.**
2100 Centennial Drive, Suite 100
Birmingham AL 35216
P: 205-871-1182 • F: 205-871-1184
E-mail: lindy@lindyssports.com
**www.lindyssports.com**

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**Publisher**
J. Lindy Davis, Jr.

**Senior Editor**
Howard Balzer

**Production Manager**
Norbert Feliciano

**Production Assistant**
Whitnee White

**Creative**
Terry Chandler, Tracey Fagan, Norbert Feliciano, Ginny O'Neill, Tim Williams

**Photo Editor**
R.D. Moore

**Editorial/Production Assistants**
Brian Hitterman, James Hughes, John Krusinski, Carol Reece, Lyn Scarbrough

**Advertising/Marketing**

**Southeast**
Lyn Scarbrough
205-437-9483

**Northeast - Mid-Atlantic**
Fox Associates
347 5th Avenue, Suite 706-B
New York, NY 10016-5010
adinfo.ldy@foxrep.com
212-725-2106

**West Coast**
Fox Associates
1445 E. Los Angeles Ave., Suite 301
Simi Valley, CA 93065
adinfo.ldy@foxrep.com
805-522-0501

**Chicago**
Fox Associates
312-644-3888

**London, UK**
Simon Milham
+44 (0)771-214-1310

**Newsstand**
John Willett, Philip Willett

**Orders/Shipping**
Whitnee White

**Accounting**
Susan Schaper • Barry Jacobs • Agenda Davis • Beverly Bradford

**Contributing Writers**
Howard Balzer, Mike Beacom, Vincent Bonsignore, Vic Carucci, Gene Chamberlain, Bob Condotta, Matt Derrick, Paul Domowitch, Tyler Drake, Jeff Duncan, Jeff Edelstein, Ray Fittipaldo, Tony Grossi, Karen Guregian, John Hadley, Clarence E. Hill Jr., Cam Inman, Luke Jones, Ira Kaufman, Ed Kracz, Dan Leberfeld, D. Orlando Ledbetter, Sal Maiorana, Andrew Mason, Terry McCormick, Kyle Meinke, Simon Milham, Gary Myers, Jay Paris, Laurel Pfahler, Michael Phillips, Rob Reischel, Alan Ross, Jeff Schudel, Ric Serritella, DJ Siddiqi, Vito Stellino, Chris Tomasson, Patricia Traina, Walter Villa, Barry Wilner, Aaron Wilson, Phillip B. Wilson

**Contributing Photographers**
Steve Beyer, Scott Boehm, Rich Gabrielson, Dough Holleman, Dennis Hubbard, Ron Kovach, John Pyle, Joe Robbins, Bruce Schwartzman, Dave Sizer

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SCOPING THE NFL

# RODGERS EMERGES FROM THE DARKNESS IN NEW YORK

## THE TUSH PUSH LIVES ON

BY PAUL DOMOWITCH | Illustrations by Tim Williams

When Aaron Rodgers walked off the field following the Green Bay Packers' 20-16 season-ending loss to the Detroit Lions in January, the future Hall of Fame quarterback thought he probably had played his last NFL game.

More than a month later, right before he headed for a four-day darkness retreat in southern Oregon (don't ask), he said he was "90 percent retired." But after emerging from his isolation room and finding out the Packers were considering trading him to the New York Jets, well, the 39-year-old Rodgers decided he wasn't quite ready to retire after all.

It took nearly two months for the two sides to finally work out the details of the trade. But after 18 years with the Packers, Rodgers will be playing for the Jets this season.

Will Rodgers' arrival turn a Jets team that hasn't made the playoffs since 2010 and lost its last six games last season on the way to a disappointing 7-10 finish into a Super Bowl contender?

We'll see. Rodgers is coming off one of the poorest seasons of his illustrious career. His 26 touchdown passes were his second fewest in a season not shortened by injury. His 6.8 yards-per-attempt average was the second lowest of his career and his 12 interceptions were the second most.

But he's joining a team that is full of receiving options, including his former Packers teammate Allen Lazard, former Chiefs wide receiver Mecole Hardman, 2022 first-round pick Garrett Wilson and versatile second-year running back Breece Hall.

The 6-foot-5, 227-pound Lazard caught 60 passes from Rodgers last season. Hardman is a 4.3 speedster who can line up all over the formation and put vertical pressure on defenses. Wilson had 83 catches last year and was the league's Offensive Rookie of the Year. Hall was averaging 5.8 yards per carry and 11.5 yards per catch before tearing his ACL last October. He is expected to be ready to play in Week 1.

The Jets also happen to have one of the league's top defenses. They finished fourth in points allowed (18.6 per game) and yards allowed (311.1), seventh in sacks (45) and gave up the fewest touchdown passes in the league (15).

"The Jets are a real threat to not only win their division, but go deep in the playoffs," said former NFL quarterback Rich Gannon, who is an analyst for The 33rd Team, CBS Sports Network and Sirius/XM NFL Radio. "I believe Aaron Rodgers still has a lot left in the tank."

The trade reunites Rodgers with Jets offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett. Hackett was the Packers' offensive coordinator from 2019 to 2021. In 2020, Rodgers led the league in touchdown passes (48), yards per attempt (9.1) and completion percentage (70.7).

"There's a familiarity there that's very important," said former NFL coach Mike Martz, who is an analyst for The 33rd Team. "Aaron doesn't have to come in and pick up an offense he's not familiar with because he and Hackett were together for three years. That will make it easy.

"I believe the Jets could absolutely get to the top next year. Rodgers still has that in him. This is going to rejuvenate him and get him fired up."

## GAMBLING SUSPENSIONS

Jameson Williams' NFL career has gotten off to a rough start. Williams, the 12th pick in the 2022 draft, played only 78 snaps as a rookie after tearing his ACL in his final college game at Ohio State. Now, he's going to miss the first six games this season after being suspended for violating the league's sports betting policy.

Williams was suspended for placing a bet on a college football game while at the Lions' practice facility. The NFL outlaws betting of any kind while at a team facility. Williams' teammate, Stanley Berryhill, also was suspended six games for the same offense.

Two other Lions players, wide receiver Quintez Cephus and safety C.J. Moore, and Washington Commanders defensive end Shaka Toney all were suspended for the entire 2023 season for betting on NFL games. Shortly after the suspensions were announced, the Lions released Cephus and Moore.

Last year, wide receiver Calvin Ridley, then with the Atlanta Falcons, was suspended by the league for one season for gambling on an NFL game. Ridley was traded to the Jacksonville Jaguars last November and has since been reinstated.

For years, the NFL fought attempts to legalize sports betting with the fierceness of a goal-line stand, claiming sports gambling threatened the character and integrity of the game.

But after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the 26-year-old Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA) in May of 2018, which effectively legalized sports betting in all but a handful of states, the NFL quickly transitioned to business partners with the gambling industry.

It has partnerships with several sportsbooks, including Caesars Entertainment, DraftKings, FanDuel, FOXBet and BetMGM. A league that once wouldn't allow its broadcast partners to run commercials promoting Las Vegas as a tourist destination, now has a team in Vegas and awarded next year's Super Bowl to the city. Its game telecasts are loaded with gambling commercials.

Many teams have opened betting lounges in their stadiums, and it isn't expected to be long before teams start running their own sportsbooks.

"A team that has the right to control an online sports-betting site essentially would have a license to print money," Daniel Wallach, a gaming attorney and sports betting legal expert told The 33rd Team two years ago.

## RUNNING BACKS

Two running backs – Bijan Robinson and Jahmyr Gibbs – were taken in the first round of the April draft. Robinson went eighth to Atlanta and Gibbs went 12th to Detroit. They were just the fifth and sixth running backs to be taken in the first round in the last five drafts, and the first two to be taken higher than 24th since 2018, when the New York Giants selected Saquon Barkley with the second overall pick. Of the 85 running backs taken in the previous five years, 59, or 69.4 percent, have gone in Rounds 4 through 7.

While running backs still are an important part of most NFL offenses, teams are less willing to spend a high draft pick or commit a lot of money and cap space to the position.

"I've never spoken to a general manager who didn't think running backs were really important," said former NFL executive Joe Banner. "But you can get a running back in the second or third or even later rounds and he'll frequently be as good or better as somebody taken in the top 10.

"It's the only position where there are more quality players than there is need. You don't need more than a high-school economics course to figure out that when that happens, the price goes down and people get picked later."

The Super-Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs are a perfect example. In 2020, they drafted LSU running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire in the first round with the 32nd overall pick. But their most productive running back during their championship run last season was seventh-round rookie Isiah Pacheco.

Pacheco led the team in rushing and rushed for 76 yards and a touchdown in the Chiefs' 38-35 Super Bowl win over the Philadelphia Eagles. He averaged 5.3 yards per carry in the playoffs.

Prior to the draft, 25 free-agent running backs were signed. Twelve of them got one-year deals. Just two – Carolina's Miles Sanders and Detroit's David Montgomery – received deals that average more than $4 million per year. Jamaal Williams scored an NFL-high 17 rushing touchdowns with the Lions last season. The best deal he could get in free agency was $12 million over three years with New Orleans.

Just two running backs – the San Francisco 49ers' Christian McCaffery and the Saints' Alvin Kamara – have contracts with average annual values of $15 million or more. There are 23 wide receivers and 20 edge rushers in the league averaging more than that.

Sanders rushed for 1,200 yards and made the Pro Bowl last season with the Eagles, but the NFC champions never made him a competitive offer when he became a free agent. The Packers' Aaron Jones rushed for 1,121 yards last season. His thanks? A $5 million pay cut.

Twenty-four running backs were selected in the first round of the draft from 2008 to 2019. Just six of them were given second contracts by the team that drafted them. Again, the feeling is why overpay a running back when you can get a competent replacement on the second or third day of the draft.

Ezekiel Elliott is a cautionary tale of the short shelf life of running backs that are ridden hard. In his first four seasons in the league after the Cowboys made him the fourth overall pick in the 2016 draft, he averaged 20.9 carries, 96.6 rushing yards and 5.4 rushing first downs per game. Over the last three years, those numbers have plummeted to 15.1 carries, 60.8 yards and 3.6 rushing first downs per game.

The Cowboys cut Elliott in March. He had been replaced as the starter by 2021 fourth-rounder Tony Pollard and was scheduled to count $16.7 million against their cap in 2023. By designating him a post-June 1 cut, they will save nearly $11 million of that $16.7 million in cap space this year.

"That heavy load, 300 touches a year for 3-4 years, those guys take a heavy beating," said former Las Vegas Raiders general manager Mike Mayock. "When you compare that with the availability of running backs at all levels, I think you can see why most clubs feel, hell, I can get a guy on Day 2 or 3 of the draft or sign one off the street and be just fine."

## COACHES ON THE HOT SEAT

**Mike McCarthy, Dallas Cowboys:** The Cowboys haven't made it past the divisional round of the playoffs since 1995. At 80, owner Jerry Jones's patience is wearing thin. This is McCarthy's fourth year in Dallas. His team has finished fourth and first in scoring the last two years, yet managed to score a total of 29 points in consecutive playoff losses to the 49ers. If the Cowboys don't make it past the divisional round this season, McCarthy probably will be gone.

**Kevin Stefanski, Cleveland Browns:** With Deshaun Watson's suspension behind him, owner Jimmy Haslam expects to start getting a return on the completely-guaranteed $230 million he is paying Watson. Stefanski, entering his fourth year, needs to get the Browns back in the playoffs.

**Ron Rivera, Washington Commanders:** Rivera, entering his fourth year, is a good coach. But he's taken the Commanders to the playoffs just once in his three years in D.C., and that was through the back door in 2020 with a 7-9 record. An uncertain quarterback situation and a new owner doesn't help matters.

**Robert Saleh, N.Y. Jets:** With the arrival of Aaron Rodgers, expectations are high for a Jets team that hasn't been to the postseason since 2010 and hasn't had a winning season since 2015. Saleh and general manager Joe Douglas have built one of the league's best defenses. With the addition of Rodgers, the Jets should contend for the AFC East title and could make a deep playoff run. If that doesn't happen, owner Woody Johnson could terminate both Saleh and Douglas.

**Todd Bowles, Tampa Bay:** Bowles benefitted from Bruce Arians' late-March retirement last year. The Bucs made the playoffs by default last season — somebody from the awful NFC South had to go. We'll have to wait and see how much time the Glazer family is going to give Bowles to renovate a Bucs offense that finished 25th in scoring last year and no longer has Tom Brady behind center. His future could be in the hands of Brady's replacement, Baker Mayfield, and new offensive coordinator Dave Canales.

# SCOPING THE NFL

# RETURN OF THE TUSH PUSH

The Tush Push will be back in 2023 and is expected to be more popular than ever.

The Philadelphia Eagles turned the Tush Push — an orchestrated quarterback sneak with teammates giving the ball-carrier a push from behind — into an art form on their way to the NFC title last season.

The Eagles ran a league-high 33 quarterback sneaks last season, including 31 by Jalen Hurts. Hurts converted 28 of those 31. In the Eagles' three-point loss to the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LVII, Hurts had 10 rushing first downs, including six on quarterback sneaks. All six featured a helping push from behind from teammates.

"It was a successful play for us," said Shane Steichen, who was the Eagles' offensive coordinator last season before being hired as the Indianapolis Colts' head coach in February. "Our guys were really good at operating the play."

Pushing the runner forward to advance the football has been legal in the NFL since 2005. But it took 17 years for the Eagles to turn the rule into a legitimate offensive weapon.

Not everybody liked the Tush Push.

"It amounts to a rugby scrum," said the league's former VP of officiating Dean Blandino, who now is a rules analyst for Fox Sports. "The NFL wants to showcase the athleticism and skill of its athletes. This is just not a skillful play."

"Personally, I don't like it," said Charles Davis, a game analyst for The NFL on CBS. "I don't like the idea that you can run behind your guy and push him. I want it outlawed. I know I sound like one of those get-off-my-lawn people. But it just doesn't seem right to me."

The Tush Push was discussed at length during the offseason by the league's competition committee. While some members of the committee shared Blandino and Davis's sentiments, there was not enough support for recommending to the owners that they outlaw it.

So, it lives. And given the copycat nature of the NFL, you can expect a ton of teams to use the Tush Push next season.

The funny thing is, most teams, fearful of their quarterback getting hurt, had previously been reluctant to even run sneaks on short-yardage and goal-line situations. From 2017 through 2020, just 13 teams ran 10 or more QB sneaks in a season, according to Sports Info Solutions. Only one of those 13 – the 2020 New England Patriots – ran more than 15 (22).

Credit Eagles head coach Nick Sirianni for realizing the potential of the Tush Push. He is an aggressive play-caller whose team had the fourth-most fourth-down attempts (32) in the league in 2022.

He realized he had a quarterback in a fullback's body in Hurts. He realized he had an outstanding interior offensive line spearheaded by five-time All-Pro center Jason Kelce that could move people. Incorporating his tight ends, running backs and wide receivers as tush-pushers pretty much turned *and-1* into a gimme.

"Until they change the rules, it's going to be a part of our game," said Jacksonville Jaguars head coach Doug Pederson, who plans to implement it with his quarterback, Trevor Lawrence, this season. "It's a valuable part of anybody's offense."

The Denver Broncos' new head coach, Sean Payton, has said he's going to use the Tush Push with his quarterback, Russell Wilson, every game this season.

"All I know," said Eagles general manager Howie Roseman, "is everything we're doing is legal and it works. And just because people do something that's really good doesn't mean it should be outlawed."

The Eagles usually used tight end Dallas Goedert as the pusher. Often times, he would go in motion across the formation, then cut behind Hurts when the ball was snapped.

Other times, they lined up in an elongated I-formation, with one of their running backs and two of their wide receivers behind Hurts. At the snap, the back would push Hurts from behind while the wideouts were responsible for cutting off any unblocked penetration off the edges.

"My first thought after I saw them do it was, why isn't everybody doing this in short-yardage and goal-line?" NFL Network analyst Brian Baldinger said. "All of these teams that can't gain a stinking yard when they need a yard, need to start doing what the Eagles are doing."

Said Davis: "Given the success the Eagles had with it, I'd be surprised if, out of the next 100 QB sneaks, 99 of them don't have some form of someone pushing the quarterback. Just a pure quarterback sneak, I don't know if we're going to see it anymore."

# SCOPING THE NFL

**Ran Carthon**
Photo by George Walker IV / Tennessean.com

## BY THE NUMBERS

- A record 51.8 percent (141 of 272) of the games last season were decided by seven points or less.
- Seven of the 14 teams in the playoffs last season – the Chargers, Dolphins, Ravens, Jaguars, Vikings, Giants and Seahawks — didn't qualify for the postseason the previous year. Since 1990, at least four teams have made the playoffs every year that weren't in the postseason the previous year.
- Only six quarterbacks had a passer rating of 100.0 or better last season. That's the fewest since 2017, when there were only five. The Dolphins' Tua Tagovailoa led the league with a 105.5 passer rating.
- The Ravens led the league in runs of 10 or more yards last season with 88. The Bucs were last with 27. The top five individually: the Browns' Nick Chubb (47), the Raiders' Josh Jacobs (41), the Titans' Derrick Henry (37), the Eagles' Miles Sanders (34) and Bears quarterback Justin Fields (33).
- Eagles wide receiver A.J. Brown had a league-high 18 receptions of 25 yards or more, including seven of his 11 touchdowns. The Raiders' Davante Adams led the league in 25-plus-yard touchdown catches with 10. He had a league-high 14 TD catches overall.
- The Super-Bowl champion Chiefs ran an NFL-high 207 plays in the red zone. A league-high 60.4 percent of them (125) were pass plays. The Eagles, who lost to the Chiefs in the Super Bowl, led the league in run-play percentage in the red zone (66.3).
- Brock Purdy, the 49ers quarterback, led the league in third-down passing with a 132.4 rating, including a 72.9 completion percentage, six touchdowns and no interceptions. Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott had seven interceptions and a 55.4 completion percentage on third down.
- Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts had 67 rushing first downs last season. That was the third most in the league, behind only the Raiders' Josh Jacobs (93) and the Browns' Nick Chubb (69). Hurts also finished second to the Lions' Jamaal Williams in rushing touchdowns with 13. His 23 rushing TDs the last two years are the most ever in a two-year span by a quarterback.

## MAKING DIVERSITY STRIDES

Slowly, but surely, the NFL is making progress in diversity. The league heads into the 2023 season with five black and seven minority team presidents, which is the most ever.

In February, Ran Carthon became the eighth black and ninth minority general manager when he was hired by the Tennessee Titans, also the most in league history.

But when they took the annual group picture of the league's head coaches in March at the league meetings in Phoenix, the whiteness was blinding. For the fifth straight year, the NFL heads into the 2023 season with just three black head coaches – Pittsburgh's Mike Tomlin, Houston's DeMeco Ryans and Tampa Bay's Todd Bowles.

"With regard to minority head coaches, and especially black head coaches, the number is below our expectations," admitted Jonathan Beane, who is the league's chief diversity officer. "But overall, the recent policies we've implemented, including the accelerator program and the offensive assistant program, and others have borne some fruit.

"If you look at the overall diversity of our clubs at almost every (job) position, it's gone up. The overall diversity at the league office has gone up."

Beane said the overall percentage of minority coaches in the league jumped from 35 percent in 2020 to 42 percent in 2023. The data hasn't been gathered yet for 2023, but he "feels good" that it's going to show another significant jump.

"We've made a lot of changes to our efforts over the last three years that are bearing fruit," Beane said. "We haven't hit on all cylinders in all areas. But when you look at overall progress, we feel pretty good about it."

And yet, of the five head-coaching openings this offseason, only one went to a minority. That was Ryans, who was hired by the Texans to replace Lovie Smith, who was fired after one season. Smith, like Ryans, is black.

While the percentage of overall black/minority assistant coaches is rising, there's been little to no diversity improvement in the key assistant coaching positions. There are just three Black offensive coordinators in the league, down from four in 2022. There are just five black quarterbacks coaches, which is just one more than last year. And the number of black defensive coordinators has dropped from 16 to 14.

"I wish we had seen one or two more (Black) head coaches hired just because it would have shown that there is progress happening at all levels," said former NFL executive Joe Banner, who has advised the league on diversity issues. "But I do think we continue to see progress on the GM level, which helps me feel more confident that there is a league-wide sensitivity to the issue. Like most people, I wish it were

faster and more obvious. But we are seeing progress. I believe we're finally on the right track."

The league is playing the long game as it tries to improve its diversity numbers. It created the accelerator program last year, which gives NFL owners several opportunities a year to meet – and get to know – many of the league's young minority personnel executives and assistant coaches in a casual setting. There have been five accelerator events in the last year, most of them at league meetings.

"We were trying to figure out how we can move the (diversity) needle, how we can come up with innovative ways to disrupt the regular (hiring) process and provide new opportunities," Beane said. "The most important piece is giving candidates an opportunity to spend time with club owners.

"The idea is let's provide an opportunity for sort of speed-dating where you've got tables and you can have casual conversations. Then we have a reception where you can go and mingle and just organically meet people. Other times, it's very structured, where we literally make sure we put particular candidates with particular clubs and move them around. We want to be really creative in how we do the networking to make sure it's not always the same."

The approach works. That's how Tennessee Titans owner Amy Adams Strunk met Carthon. Her comfort level with him, along with his strong resume', led to her hiring him.

The league also has high hopes for the offensive assistant mandate it instituted last year. All teams must hire a female or a member of an ethnic or racial minority as an offensive assistant coach.

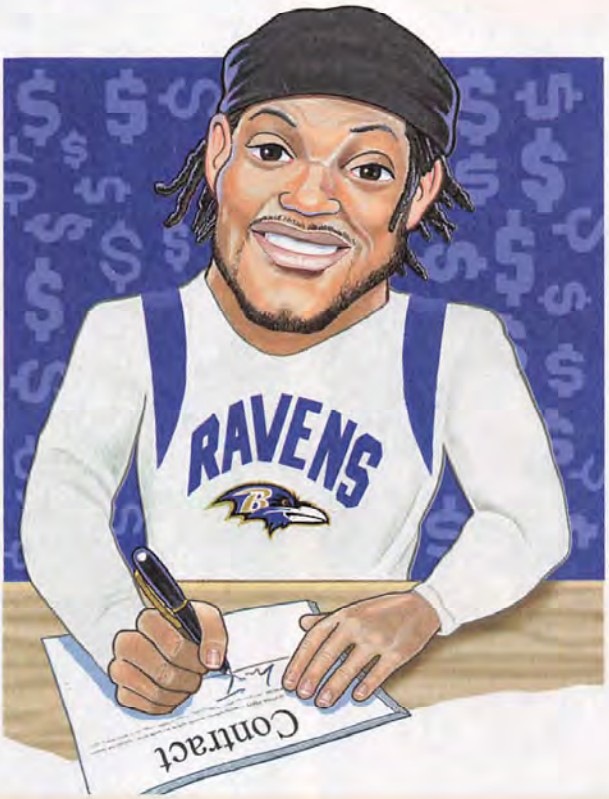
Nineteen of the league's 32 head coaches come from the offensive side of the ball. In the last five years, 35 head coaches have been hired. Twenty-four of those 35 have been offensive coaches.

"Everybody is enamored with the quarterback," said Troy Vincent, the NFL's Senior vice president of Football Operations. "If you're not touching the quarterback, if you don't have a plan for how to manage or coach that individual, the chances of you becoming a head coach are greatly diminished. Because today, as we are seeing, teams are putting a half-billion dollars into that player."

Hall of Fame general manager Bill Polian thinks it's a great idea.

"I'm a guy who historically has resisted mandates," he said. "But it absolutely makes sense in this case. The only way you're going to get minorities into the quarterback coaching room and offensive coordinator pipeline is to bring them in as offensive assistants and then mentor the best ones from there on in."

# LAMAR GETS PAID




When the Cleveland Browns traded for Deshaun Watson last year and gave him a fully-guaranteed five-year, $230 million contract, no one was more openly ticked off at Browns owner Jimmy Haslam than his counterpart in Baltimore, Steve Bisciotti.

"I don't know that he should've been the first guy to get a fully guaranteed contract," the Ravens owner said at the time. "To me, that's something that is groundbreaking, and it's going to make negotiations harder with others."

It definitely made it more difficult for Bisciotti and the Ravens to sign their own quarterback, Lamar Jackson, who, with a little encouragement from the NFL Players Association, wanted the same kind of fully-guaranteed deal that Watson got.

The two sides spent the better part of a year getting nowhere on a new deal. The Ravens ended up putting the non-exclusive franchise tag on Jackson in February, and the 2019 NFL MVP requested a trade a few weeks later, saying the Ravens "have not been interested in meeting my value."

Just when it looked like Jackson might have played his last game with the Ravens, the two sides finally worked out their differences on the eve of the April draft.

Jackson relented on the 100-percent guaranteed issue and agreed to a five-year, $260 million contract that made him the league's highest-paid player at $52 million a year, surpassing the $51 million a year the Philadelphia Eagles gave their quarterback, Jalen Hurts, only a week earlier.

Jackson's deal included $185 million in guarantees, which was $6 million more than Hurts got.

Both Jackson and Hurts are dual-threat quarterbacks, which makes them a little more prone to injury and was one of the reasons the Ravens were so reluctant to give him a fully-guaranteed contract.

He is an immensely talented player, but has missed 10 games the last two years, including the Ravens' 24-17 playoff loss to Cincinnati last season. Jackson, who has twice rushed for 1,000 yards in his career, has averaged 10.7 rushing attempts per game in 54 starts over the last four years. Hurts, a second-round pick in the 2020 draft, has averaged 10.1 carries per game since becoming the Eagles' full-time starter in 2021.

Jackson has a plus-63 touchdowns-to-interceptions differential in five seasons, but is 1-3 in four postseason starts with a 68.3 passer rating.

# PREDICTIONS

## AFC REMAINS THE DOMINANT CONFERENCE

BY HOWARD BALZER

Perhaps as our regular leaders read through the pages of this magazine each year, the ratings for positions on each team appear random.

What they do show is how close in talent many teams are and how injuries that can't be predicted will have a profound effect on the results we see on the field each week.

Deniers like to repeat the mantra that "all teams have injuries" and repeat the empty phrase "next man up."

The reality is that when a large number of injuries hit a team and especially at one position group, it can be disastrous. Conversely, teams that avoid injuries have a much better chance at success.

The Eagles are an example. Every player that started on opening day was on the field to open Super Bowl LVII. For all 20 games Philadelphia played, only three man games were missed by offensive line starters. Meanwhile, the winning Chiefs also had only three games missed on the O-line. That was a far cry from their Super-Bowl loss to Tampa Bay three years ago when both their starting tackles were on the shelf.

The ratings reflect where each team is when this issues goes to the printer in mid-May. As we know, so much can happen after that.

However, those numbers fall very close in line with the betting odds presented here by BetOnline.org.

Of course, what always has to be remembered is that the odds reflect what the betting public puts its hard-earned money on based on their own perception or simply looking for potential underdog picks.

After all, last year at this time, the Broncos had the eighth-best odds to win the Super Bowl simply because they had acquired quarterback Russell Wilson.

This year, it's the Jets with Aaron Rodgers. They have the sixth-best Super-Bowl odds, yet he has the eighth-best MVP odds. Figure that one out!

Of course, always remember, all of it is for entertainment purposes only, which the NFL manages to do on virtually a daily basis.

**ODDS TO WIN SUPER BOWL VIII:** Kansas City 13/2; Philadelphia 8/1; Buffalo 19/2; Cincinnati 19/2; San Francisco 10/1; Dallas 14/1; N.Y. Jets 14/1; Baltimore 18/1; Miami 18/1; L.A. Chargers 22/1; Detroit 25/1; Jacksonville 25/1; Seattle 40/1; Cleveland 45/1; Minnesota 45/1; Denver 50/1; Green Bay Packers 50/1; New England 50/1; New Orleans 50/1; N.Y. Giants 50/1; Las Vegas 55/1; Atlanta 66/1; Carolina 66/1; Chicago 66/1; L.A. Rams 66/1; Pittsburgh 66/1; Tennessee 80/1; Washington 80/1; Houston 100/1; Indianapolis 100/1; Tampa Bay 100/1; Arizona 150/1

**ODDS TO WIN AFC CHAMPIONSHIP:** Kansas City 15/4; Buffalo 21/4; Cincinnati 23/4; Miami 8/1; N.Y. Jets 8/1; Baltimore 10/1; L.A. Chargers 12/1: Jacksonville 14/1; Cleveland 25/1; Denver 25/1; Las Vegas 28/1; New England 28/1; Pittsburgh 28/1; Indianapolis 50/1; Houston 55/1; Tennessee 66/1

**ODDS TO WIN NFC CHAMPIONSHIP:** Philadelphia 13/4; San Francisco 4/1; Dallas 7/1; Detroit 8/1; Minnesota 14/1; New Orleans 14/1; N.Y. Giants 16/1; L.A. Rams 18/1; Chicago 20/1; Seattle 20/1; Green Bay 22/1; Washington 25/1; Atlanta 28/1; Carolina 28/1; Tampa Bay 35/1; Arizona 75/1

**ODDS TO WIN DIVISIONS:** AFC EAST — Buffalo 7/5; N.Y. Jets 9/4; Miami 3/1; New England 7/1. AFC NORTH — Cincinnati 6/5; Baltimore 5/2; Cleveland 7/2; Steelers 13/2. AFC SOUTH — Jacksonville 2/3; Tennessee 15/4; Indianapolis 23/4; Houston 25/4. AFC WEST — Kansas City 2/3; L.A. Chargers 3/1; Denver 21/4; Las Vegas 10/1. NFC EAST — Philadelphia 5/6; Dallas 9/5; N.Y. Giants 6/1; Washington 11/1. NFC NORTH — Detroit 8/5; Minnesota 11/5; Chicago 15/4; Green Bay 17/4. NFC SOUTH — New Orleans 13/10; Atlanta 12/5; Carolina 16/5; Tampa Bay 25/4. NFC WEST — San Francisco 5/8; Seattle 5/2; L.A. Rams 11/2; Arizona 20/1

**OVER/UNDER REGULAR-SEASON WINS:** 11.5 — Cincinnati, Kansas City; 11 — San Francisco; 10.5 — Baltimore, Buffalo, Philadelphia; 9.5 — Dallas, Detroit, Jacksonville, L.A. Chargers, Miami, New Orleans, N.Y. Jets; 9 — Cleveland; 8.5 — Atlanta, Denver, Minnesota, Pittsburgh, Seattle; 8 — N.Y. Giants; 7.5 — Carolina, Chicago, Green Bay, New England, Tennessee; 6.5 — Houston, Indianapolis, Las Vegas, L.A. Rams, Tampa Bay, Washington; 4.5 — Arizona

### NFC EAST

| | |
|---|---|
| Philadelphia | The Eagles don't need pushes from behind to be the division's cream of the crop. |
| Dallas | The Cowboys still haven't had postseason success in nearly three decades. |
| N.Y. Giants | A good first season with head coach Brian Daboll has fans wanting more. |
| Washington | A new owner could be coming, but the quarterback is a big question. |

### NFC NORTH

| | |
|---|---|
| Detroit | The biggest question is how the Lions will handle increased expectations. |
| Minnesota | The fall could be hard if they fail to win close games as they did last season. |
| Green Bay | Will the Cheeseheads have "love" for their new quarterback at the end of the season? |
| Chicago | It's not enough for quarterbacks to be runners and that's what Justin Fields has to learn. |

### NFC SOUTH

| | |
|---|---|
| New Orleans | Well, someone has to win a division that had no teams better than .500 last season. |
| Carolina | They might be better if Bryce Young plays well as a rookie. |
| Atlanta | A foundation is being built, but success depends on quarterback Desmond Ridder. |
| Tampa Bay | Could be a surprise team if Baker Mayfield has success with a good receiving group. |

### NFC WEST

| | |
|---|---|
| San Francisco | A lot of angst over the quarterback, but it doesn't seem to matter with this team. |
| Seattle | We'll find out quickly if Geno Smith can do it again. |
| L.A. Rams | So much for "F-them picks." They think one championship made it worthwhile. |
| Arizona | They didn't spend on a coaching staff or players this offseason, and the roster shows it. |

**WILD CARDS:** Dallas, Seattle, Minnesota **NFC CHAMPIONSHIP:** Philadelphia vs. San Francisco

### AFC EAST

| | |
|---|---|
| Buffalo | Bills faithful believe again this is their year. |
| Miami | It all is on the shoulders of Tua Tagovailoa staying healthy. |
| New England | Can returning offensive coordinator Bill O'Brien work wonders with Mac Jones? |
| N.Y. Jets | It won't take much for the Jets to leap-frog their division rivals. |

### AFC NORTH

| | |
|---|---|
| Baltimore | This only happens if Lamar Jackson can play at the end of the season. |
| Cincinnati | The Bengals simply continue ignoring the non-believers. |
| Cleveland | They'll be better with a full season of Deshaun Watson, but not enough in this division. |
| Pittsburgh | How much will Kenny Pickett grow this season? That's the key to the postseason. |

### AFC SOUTH

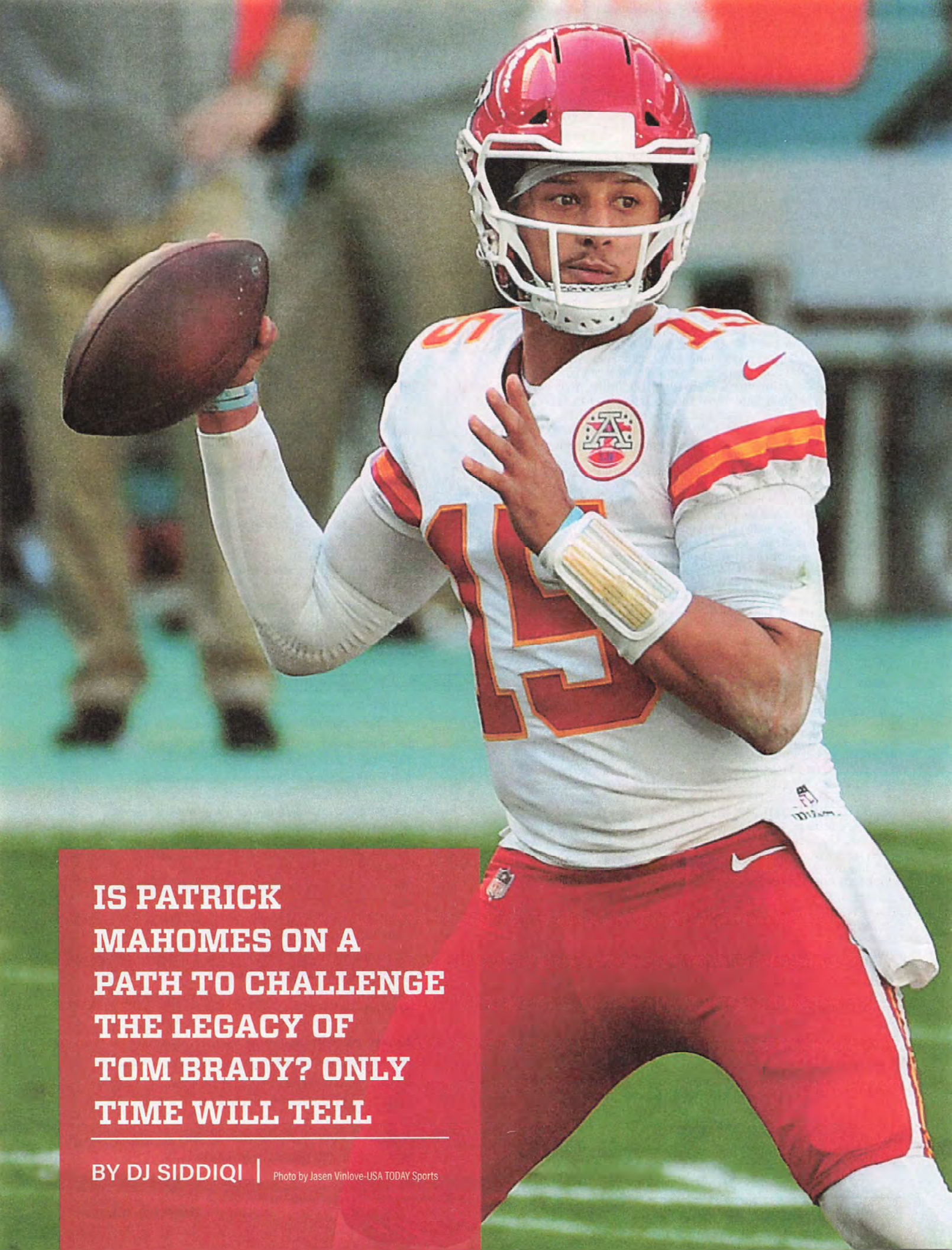
| | |
|---|---|
| Jacksonville | Jaguars should be kings of a division in transition. |
| Houston | Like Carolina, this is possible only if C.J. Stroud is good right from the jump. |
| Tennessee | The Titans will count on their old reliables to see if they can bounce back. |
| Indianapolis | They believe the future and present is Anthony Richardson. We'll find out quickly. |

### AFC WEST

| | |
|---|---|
| Kansas City | Reid-Mahomes could be thought of as Belichick-Brady someday. |
| L.A. Chargers | They have the quarterback, but they're always looking up at the Chiefs. |
| Denver | Can head coach Sean Payton bring Russell Wilson back from the abyss? |
| Las Vegas | There's no chance of the Raiders hosting the Super Bowl in their stadium. |

**WILD CARDS:** Cincinnati, L.A. Chargers, N.Y. Jets **AFC CHAMPIONSHIP:** Kansas City vs. Buffalo

**SUPER BOWL LVIII IN SIN CITY:** The 49ers keep the Bills from winning it all.



# IS PATRICK MAHOMES ON A PATH TO CHALLENGE THE LEGACY OF TOM BRADY? ONLY TIME WILL TELL

BY DJ SIDDIQI | Photo by Jasen Vinlove-USA TODAY Sports

As we enter another NFL season in 2023, we will do so without the alleged G.O.A.T. for the first time in 24 years.

Tom Brady is calling it a career (we think) — again — after 23 seasons and a laundry list of accomplishments. The 45-year-old is walking away from the game as a seven-time Super Bowl champion and the all-time leader for passing touchdowns, passing yards and completions. That's not even including his five Super Bowl MVP awards (most in NFL history), his three regular-season MVPs and his 15 Pro Bowl selections (also tops in league history).

While there's little doubt that Brady is the most accomplished player in league history, his retirement finally closes the chapter on a storied career and opens up another potential storyline — can another quarterback ever unseat Brady as the greatest ever?

The one player that comes to mind with not only a chance — but a legitimate case — is Patrick Mahomes of the Kansas City Chiefs.

Following the Chiefs' Super Bowl LVII victory over the Philadelphia Eagles, the Mahomes vs. Brady debate turned up a notch, with notable analysts giving their take on the subject.

Tom Curran, who is best known for his work as a Patriots insider, shut down the notion of a potential debate between the two quarterbacks shortly after Mahomes' second Super Bowl win.

"What's interesting about the rush to promote Mahomes as 'the new G.O.A.T.' is that he just has so far to go, and it's so disrespectful to the body of work that Tom Brady put together," Curran said on the Patriots Talk Podcast. "It's not LeBron versus Michael Jordan at all. It's Alex English versus Bill Russell."

Curran argues that Brady has essentially had three different stages of Hall of Fame careers, winning three Super Bowls during his 20s, winning three more during his 30s and then winning another with the Buccaneers at the end of his career during his 40s. He also mentions Brady's accomplishment as the first (and only) 16-0 quarterback during the regular season along with his feat of becoming the first unanimous MVP in NFL history in 2010.

"Mahomes has to do that first to even have that conversation — and then do it again for the next decade, and then maybe one time, for the hell of it, he should go to Houston at the end of his career and win another one as a stray, like Brady did," Curran said in reference to Brady's Super Bowl win as a member of the Buccaneers. "And then he can talk."

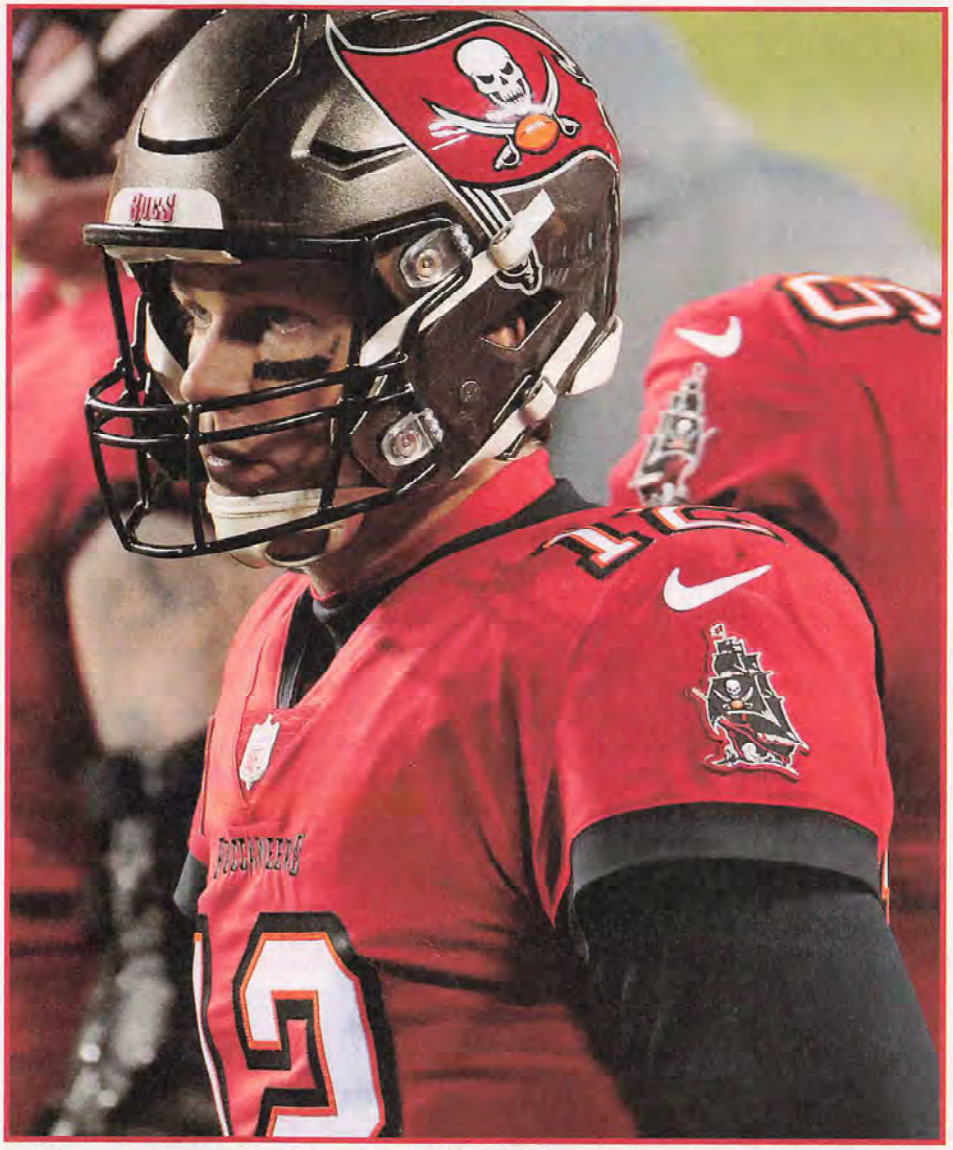
Fox Sports host Nick Wright disagrees with Curran's argument, arguing why Mahomes already belongs in the debate with Brady.

"Do we all agree Brady's best year was 2007 with (Randy) Moss? Let's compare Brady's best year of a 23-year career to Patrick Mahomes' first season as a starter," says Wright. "Patrick Mahomes at his worst — skill wise — was equal to Brady's best. That's why we can have this conversation before he has five, six or seven rings."

Wright goes on to make a bold claim that Mahomes is the "best player ever" — but not the "greatest player ever" — due to his career being in its early stages.

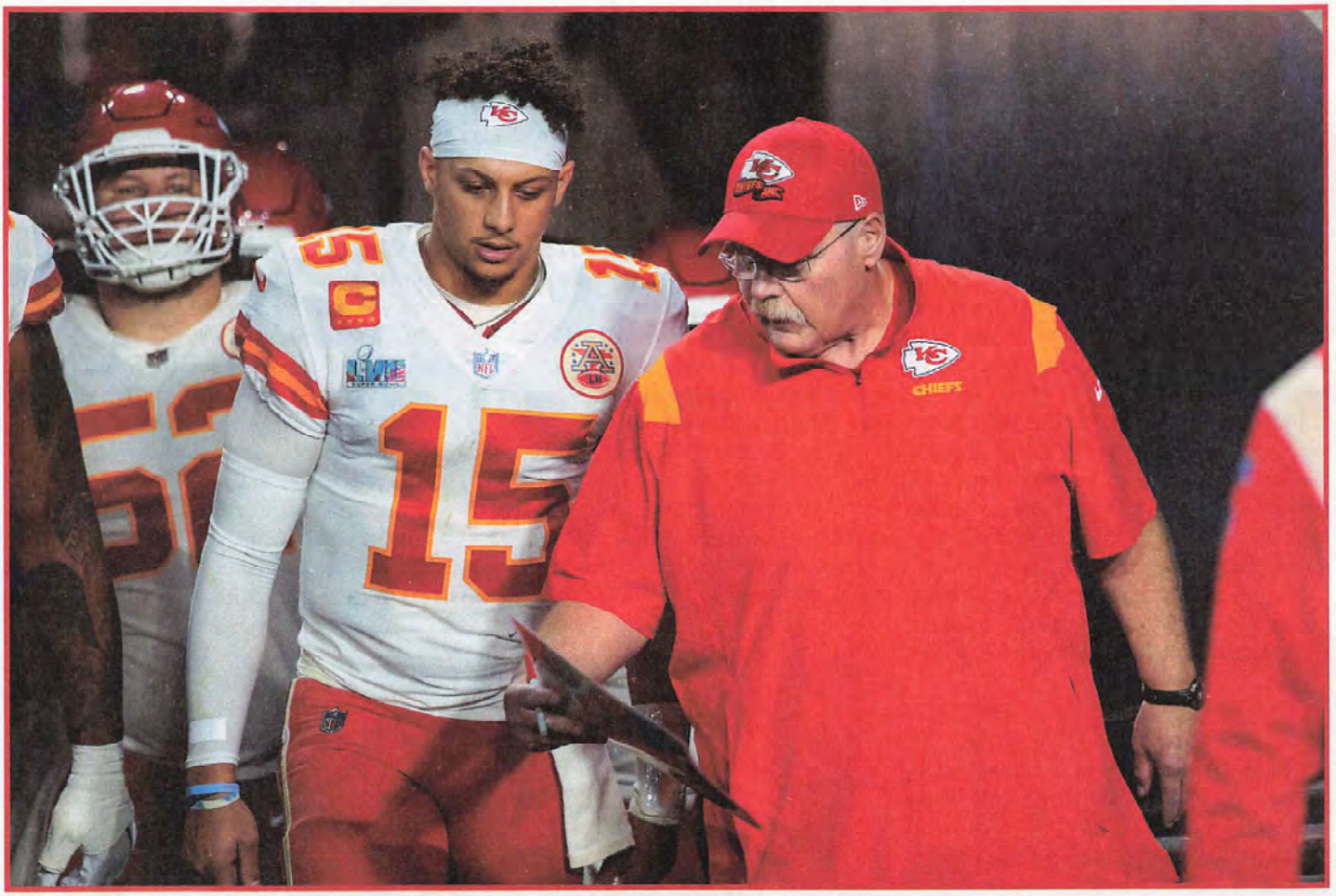
When looking at both quarterbacks' accomplishments and statistics through the first five seasons of their careers, Mahomes is actually on pace to match — if not exceed — Brady's resume'. While Brady has the edge in Super Bowl wins — three-to-two — through their first five seasons, Mahomes holds the edge in basically every other category. In fact, Mahomes has more MVP awards (two to Brady's zero), All-Pro selections (three over Brady's one), conference championship appearances (five-to-three) and has the advantage in every major statistical category — passing touchdowns, yards, completion percentage and interceptions. To top it all off, Mahomes actually has a superior record (64-16, 80 percent) compared to Brady (58-20, 74.4 percent) through five seasons.

As hard as it may be to envision right now, Mahomes could one day unseat Brady as the best ever. Assuming he plays around 20 years, Mahomes will easily overtake Brady in every major statistical category. Based upon current trajectories, Mahomes would surpass Brady in passing touchdowns after his 18th season and in passing yardage after his 20th season. With passing rules as lax



**Retired quarterback Tom Brady**

Photo by Geoff Burke-USA TODAY Sports



**Kansas City Chiefs head coach Andy Reid and quarterback Patrick Mahomes**

Photo by Mark J. Rebilas-USA TODAY Sports

as they've ever been and older quarterbacks excelling at a level never seen before, it wouldn't be a surprise to see Mahomes play into his 40s as Brady did. Keep in mind that Brady — at the age of 45 — just broke the single-season passing mark for completions and pass attempts. During the year prior, he threw for 5,316 yards, the third-best single-season mark in NFL history.

With the NFL protecting quarterbacks from even the smallest of hits, Mahomes could very well go the rest of his career worrying more about sprained ankles — he just won a Super Bowl playing through one — rather than being concerned about suffering a career-ending injury.

If Mahomes plays a standard all-time great quarterback career — think around 20 years, similar to Brady and Drew Brees — he would also have the opportunity to surpass Brady when it comes to accomplishments. He's already one MVP award away from tying Brady. The big question mark is, can Mahomes match or surpass Brady when it comes to Super Bowl wins? Prior to Brady dominating the NFL, no quarterback had ever won more than four Super Bowls, with Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw previously serving as the benchmarks in that category.

Several factors will play into whether or not Mahomes is able to reach the Mount Rushmore of quarterbacks. For one, will Mahomes have the same stability within the Chiefs organization that Brady enjoyed for many years with the New England Patriots? When looking at the most obvious advantage Brady enjoyed over his rivals, he had one head coach — Bill Belichick — presiding over him in New England during his entire 20-year career with the Patriots. Not only was Belichick the best head coach in the league, New England enjoyed stability throughout the organization, with former offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels serving in some capacity within the Patriots organization for 16 of his 20 years in New England.

Another advantage that Brady enjoyed during his career with Belichick and the Patriots is that the stars aligned perfectly when it came to timing. At age 48, Belichick drafted Brady, just prior to entering the prime years of his coaching career. There's only a 25-year difference between Belichick and Brady, which allowed the pair to enjoy two decades together dominating the league.

While Mahomes currently enjoys a similar relationship with head coach Andy Reid, there's a problem: Reid started coaching Mahomes towards the latter end of his career at the age of 59 in 2017. There's a 37-year difference between the two. Reid is 65-years-old now and there's no way to know how many years he has left in his coaching career.

By comparison, Belichick and Pete Carroll are both 71-years-old entering this season as the oldest head coaches in the NFL. In a best-case scenario, maybe Reid rides it out another five years into his early 70s.

But even if that's the case, that means Reid will have coached Mahomes for 10 or 11 of his seasons. That's only half of the career that Mahomes would need to have a chance at surpassing Brady.

The key to any quarterback's success is the organization that he plays in. If there's stability, the quarterback will likely prosper. If there's instability, the quarterback will probably falter. If the Chiefs don't have a head coach in waiting within the organization, or if they fail to hire the right head coach in the aftermath of the Reid era, the franchise could

see a decline. While Mahomes may continue to put up superb numbers without Reid, it will mean very little if his Super Bowl wins don't measure up to Brady.

Assuming the Chiefs hire a competent head coach capable of extending Kansas City's run of dominance in the AFC West and the AFC, Mahomes will have a chance to match Brady's championship hardware over the last half of his career. Keep in mind that the Chiefs' dominance within their own division — five division titles in the past five seasons, 26-4 overall record in games against divisional opponents — has played a major role in Kansas City racking up five 12-win seasons and three No. 1 seeds in that span.

This is why hiring a competent head coach during the second half of Mahomes' career is so pivotal in any debate matched up against Brady.

Secondly, where Mahomes finishes on the pecking order of all-time great quarterbacks hinges on his competition. During Brady's heyday, he had no shortage of competition, with five-time MVP Peyton Manning as his chief rival. Not only was Manning the most statistically dominant quarterback ever — he still holds the single-season passing touchdown and yardage records — he matched up against Brady five times in the postseason, actually winning the last three.

Manning's rivalry with Brady actually prevented him from advancing to three more Super Bowls, as his team defeated the Patriots in the AFC Championship Game during the 2006, 2013 and 2015 seasons. Manning went on to win two of those games in the Super Bowl.

Outside of Manning, Brady also had to deal with other great quarterbacks of his generation on a regular basis in the postseason, including Eli Manning and Ben Roethlisberger. While Brady had no issues regularly getting the better of Roethlisberger in the postseason — 2-0 record over Roethlisberger in AFC Championship games — he did have issues with the younger Manning, losing twice to the New York Giants in the Super Bowl.

Brady then switched to the NFC for the last three seasons of his career as a member of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and went through two of his big adversaries — Drew Brees and Aaron Rogers — on his way to a win over Mahomes and the Chiefs in Super Bowl LV.

When looking at Mahomes' chief competition, he faces the same obstacles that a young Brady faced in the AFC. He'll have to contend with the Joe Burrow-led Cincinnati Bengals and the Josh Allen-led Buffalo Bills for years to come. That's not even mentioning former MVP Lamar Jackson and the Los Angeles Chargers' Justin Herbert. On the NFC side, he could potentially deal with Jalen Hurts again in a Super Bowl rematch. In other words, he faces arguably tougher obstacles within his own conference than did Brady, who mainly only had to deal with two such quarterbacks in Manning and Roethlisberger. Mahomes may be forced to get through a total of four potential MVP candidates — within just his own conference — on a yearly basis in Burrow, Allen, Jackson and Herbert just to advance to the Super Bowl.

Considering that Super Bowl wins are a big — if not the biggest — talking point in any debate involving Brady, Mahomes' stiff competition within his own conference may prevent him from reaching Brady's total number of Lombardi trophies. Assuming Mahomes is fortunate and manages to play 20 healthy years — Brady missed virtually an entire season because of injury in 2008 — he'll have 14 more seasons to win five Super Bowls to match Brady's total of seven.

Brady's former favorite offensive weapon, tight end Rob Gronkowski, believes Mahomes can give Brady a "run for his money." Shortly after Mahomes' win in Super Bowl LVII, Gronkowski said in order for the Chiefs quarterback to have a chance in any debate against Brady, he'll have to perform consistently over the next 15 years.

"He's young, he has two Super Bowl wins now, and he has three Super Bowl appearances over the last six years," Gronkowski said during an appearance on Kay Adams' Up & Adams Show. "But in order to get to that level, you're going to have to be consistent over the next 15 years. It's a debate, but it's not up to us; it's just all up to Patrick Mahomes. He has to keep performing for the next 15 years."

Whether or not Mahomes can get the better end of his competition — as Brady did with Manning during the first few years of their careers — will be a big determining factor for the Mahomes vs. Brady debate.

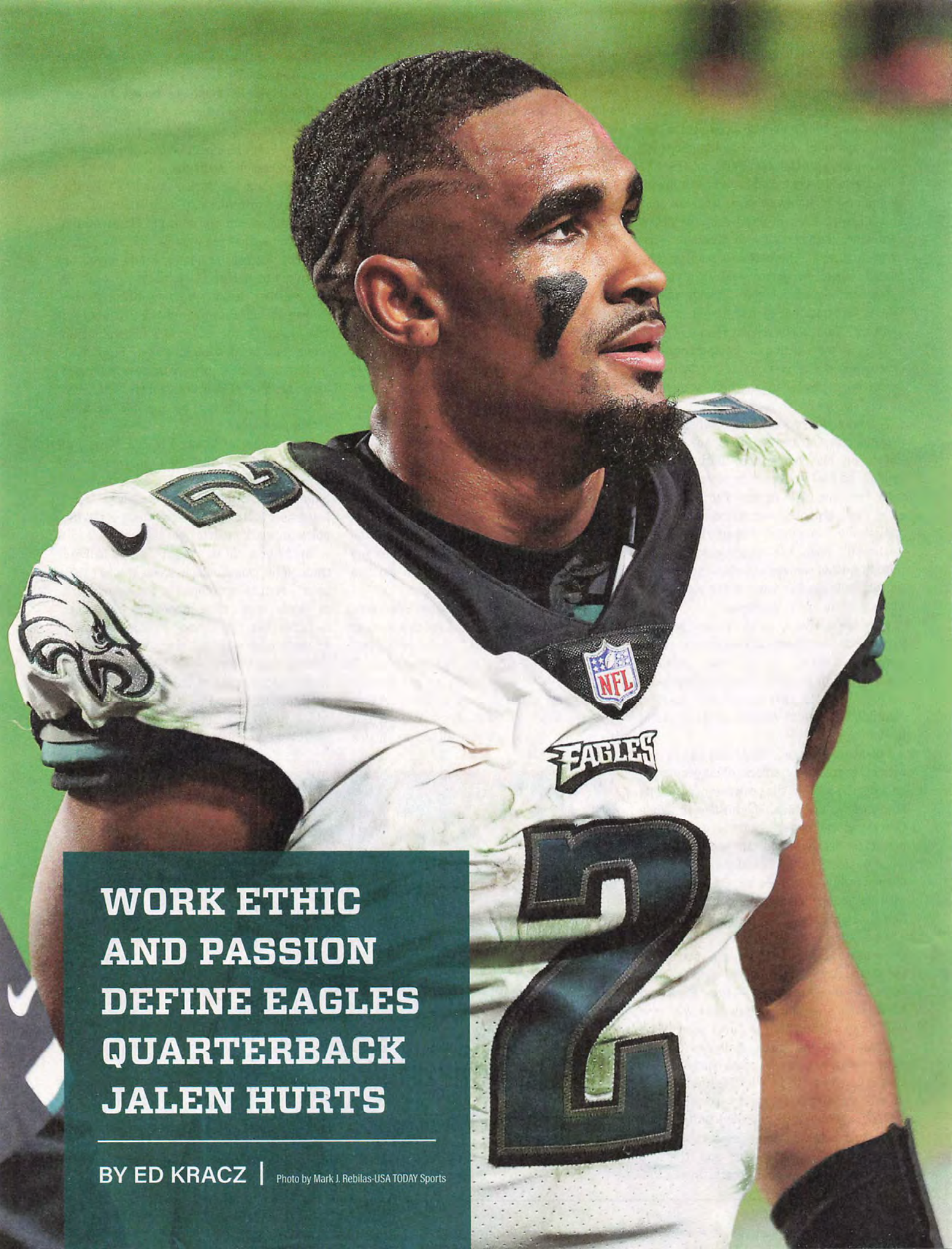
Lastly, one has to factor in that despite the major difference in age, Mahomes and Brady did match up multiple times during the latter's final years in the NFL, including two key postseason games. Brady ended up getting the better of Mahomes in both of those games, leading a game-winning drive in overtime as a member of the Patriots over the Chiefs in the 2018 AFC Championship Game and a dominant Super Bowl MVP performance in another win over Mahomes as a member of the Buccaneers when the Chiefs were affected by injuries at both tackle positions.

While Mahomes finished with a 3-3 record against Brady during their six matchups, he lost the two biggest ones — including a highly-hyped Super Bowl LV matchup. Those key losses will obviously be a major talking point once Mahomes' career is over.

The 27-year-old Mahomes isn't even halfway through his career, which makes the fact that he can even be mentioned in the same breath as Brady even more impressive. Mahomes certainly has the chance to surpass Brady 15 years from now. But there will be several determining factors — longevity, the Chiefs' organizational stability and competition at the quarterback position — that will ultimately decide whether or not he stands above Brady when the dust settles on his career.

**Chiefs admire the Lombardi Trophy**

Photo by Joe Rondone/The Republic




# WORK ETHIC AND PASSION DEFINE EAGLES QUARTERBACK JALEN HURTS

BY ED KRACZ | Photo by Mark J. Rebilas-USA TODAY Sports

Jalen Hurts' first season as the Philadelphia Eagles starting quarterback ended with his foot in a walking boot.

Surgery and questions — many, many questions — followed, including the most pressing:

Is he a franchise quarterback?

That question rattled around the hallways inside the team's training facility in South Philadelphia after Hurts' first season as the starter ended with a disappointing wild-card playoff loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

It ended with Bucs defensive coaches seen and heard on the sideline saying, "He can't read our defense."

It was a heavy indictment of the first-year starter, who went 8-7 that year.

That came on the heels of a 1-3 record over the final four games of his rookie season in 2020, when he was thrust into the starting lineup during the COVID-19-wracked season in place of Carson Wentz.

Hurts was drafted in the second round, a surprise to many, because his selection came less than a year after Wentz was given a record-breaking contract extension to be the Eagles' present and future quarterback. But the Eagles wanted a relatively inexpensive insurance policy for the always-injured Wentz.

Josh McCown, 40 at the time, was the backup when Wentz left his one and only playoff start early in the first quarter of a 2019 wild-card game against the Seahawks, a game Seattle won in Philadelphia.

Hurts completed only 52 percent of his passes in his brief audition as the starter and, while that increased in his first season as the starter, his overall record was a less-than-stellar 9-10.

*Was he capable of being "the guy?"*

Following the playoff loss to Tampa, Hurts limped his way into the interview room inside Raymond James Stadium wearing a walking boot that covered his damaged right ankle and a 31-15 loss with a 60.0 passer rating draped around his neck like an anchor.

Surgery followed shortly after, and Hurts was ready to go by the spring OTAs, ready to start answering questions.

Only his play would be able to erase the doubts, and Hurts, whose college career was one of ups and major downs, all played out in the public crucible that is football at Alabama and Oklahoma, was prepared for the moment.

Still, the Eagles investigated trading for quarterbacks Deshaun Watson, then with the Houston Texans, and Russell Wilson, then with the Seattle Seahawks.

Those players were ultimately dealt to new teams, but they went to the Cleveland Browns and the Denver Broncos, respectively. Not Philadelphia.

Hurts, still just 24, would be given another season, and he made it count in a big way, proving again the axiom that sometimes the best moves a team doesn't make are the best ones.

## ANSWERING DOUBTERS

Hurts answered every question anyone had about him last year.

He is the franchise quarterback.

Along the way, he has demonstrated an unquenchable thirst to improve.

"He has an incredible passion for being phenomenal," said owner Jeffrey Lurie. "You see that in the great ones."

Hurts' completion percentage went up, from 61.3 in his first year as the starter to 66.5 in 2022.

His touchdown passes increased from 16 to 22, while his interceptions went down from nine to six.

His rushing touchdowns went way up, from 10 to 13, with another five in the three postseason games this past season, becoming the first quarterback in NFL history to post back-to-back seasons with 10-plus rushing TDs.

He achieved that in a Week-14 romp over the New York Giants, 48-22. The jersey and pants he wore in that game are displayed now in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

His season was so epic that he finished as the runner-up in the MVP voting.

Had he not missed two games because of a shoulder injury, perhaps he would have been the MVP rather than Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes.

Hurts put the icing on such an impressive season with a standout performance in Super Bowl LVII, despite a 38-35 loss.

It may have been the best game of Hurts' young career. He ran for 70 yards, a Super Bowl record for quarterbacks, and three touchdowns, another game record, while passing for 304 yards and another TD.

"We came up short, so it's something that I know will motivate me," said Hurts. "I've been here before, and that's the beautiful thing about it, so I'll figure it out."

As good as his numbers were in the big game, there was one costly mistake. He lost a fumble that was returned 36 yards for a touchdown midway through the second quarter that evened the score at 14-14.

Hurts chalked it up to a learning experience.

"I don't do this to be loved," he said. "I don't do this to be hated. I don't do this to seek anyone else's approval. I do it for the guys in the locker room. I do it for all the time that we've invested into this. I do it for the love and thrill of growing something and put the work in and go out there and get it.

"You go out there and you make it happen. It is a tough feeling to come up short. It's a very tough feeling, but I know the direction is to rise and that will be the M.O. going forward, that will be the mentality going forward."

If nothing else, the loss on the big stage, and the big mistake, cemented Hurts' role as the team's unquestioned leader.

"Jalen owned his stuff," said defensive end Brandon Graham. "We all owned our stuff, because there was a lot of stuff that we didn't like that we wish we could have taken back, Jalen for sure. He was like, 'It's on me for the fumble,' and it's like, 'No, we're all together.'"

Added edge rusher Haason Reddick: "You know, I got to play against him twice before coming here, his first two years I got to play him, and then getting here, getting to know him, seeing his work ethic and then just seeing his growth from last year to this year, how amazing he was. Incredible player, incredible plays all year long."

## FORGED IN FIRE

Hurts' doubters date way back to college.

He never let them stand in his way, never let their words bring him down.

"I had a purpose before anyone had an opinion," he said days before the Super Bowl.

Hurts has been to the top of the mountain only to be thrown off and have to climb again.

He was benched at halftime of the 2018 College Football Playoff Championship Game vs. Georgia, yielding to Tua Tagovailoa, who led the Crimson Tide to a 26-23 overtime win.

Hurts was unable to regain his job the following season despite a 26-2 record as a starter. He regained a measure of redemption when Tagovailoa was injured during the 2018 SEC Championship Game against Georgia and delivered a victory.

The quarterback transferred to Oklahoma entering the 2019 season, finishing his career at Alabama with 5,626 yards passing and 1,976 yards rushing with a combined 72 touchdowns, 48 of which came through the air.

He led the Sooners to a Big 12 championship and a spot in the College Football Playoff after a season in which he passed for 3,851 yards and 32 touchdowns to go along with 1,298 yards rushing and 20 TDs. Somehow, that was only good enough to have him finish as the Heisman Trophy runner-up.

"I think my character, I've been raised to be who I am," he said after leading the Eagles

to a blowout of the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC Championship Game. "As the times change, the character doesn't. I always try to never get too high, never get too low, and always give my best."

It's that steady hand his teammates appreciate.

"I'm so proud of him," said left tackle Jordan Mailata. "I'm proud of everything he's accomplished and overcome week after week in the regular season. I love him, man. He's a great leader; he leads by example and he never lets situations get the better of him. He stays cool, calm and collected."

## THE NEW NARRATIVE

The franchise quarterback question has been answered, but two new ones have popped up:

What is his ceiling?

Can he stay healthy?

Hurts averages more than 10 runs per game, and he has missed three games due to injury in his first two seasons as the starter.

The Eagles, with Gardner Minshew stepping in as the backup, went 1-2 in those games.

Yes, Hurts is strong. His ability to squat more than 600 pounds is legendary.

With him in the lineup last year, the Eagles won a franchise-record 14 games in the regular season. He lost only once.

Since the season ended on Feb. 12 in Phoenix, Hurts has been seen inside the team's weight room.

Still working.

Still looking to improve.

Still looking to be the best quarterback he can be.

"He's still in there working hard," said head coach Nick Sirianni. "He's still in there lifting and working it like a maniac in the weight room, just getting after it."

Eventually, though, Hurts' playing style will have to change. He's still only 24, but running too often not only makes him susceptible to injury – it was the ankle in 2021 and a shoulder in 2022 – that forced him to the sideline, but also can wear a quarterback down as the season grows into December and January.

The trouble with limiting him in the run game is that he opens up rushing lanes for his running backs.

His ability to execute the Eagles' RPO offense leaves defenses flummoxed, and he is the reason the Eagles have been at the top of the NFL in rushing the past two seasons.

Last year, they ran for an NFL-record 39 touchdowns, breaking the previous mark set in 1928 by the Frankford Yellow Jackets with 38, back when the league was all about the run.

"Part of what makes Jalen special is everything that he can do," said Sirianni. "And so, we'll do what we have to do to win football games. No matter what that is. And Jalen does a lot of things special. And we'll try to showcase all the things that he does special.

"We'll try to recap the things that we did last year with him, and then try to add some new wrinkles with different things that we do. We'll do what we need to do to win games. And we have a special quarterback, and we'll use his special abilities."

His ceiling is anybody's guess.

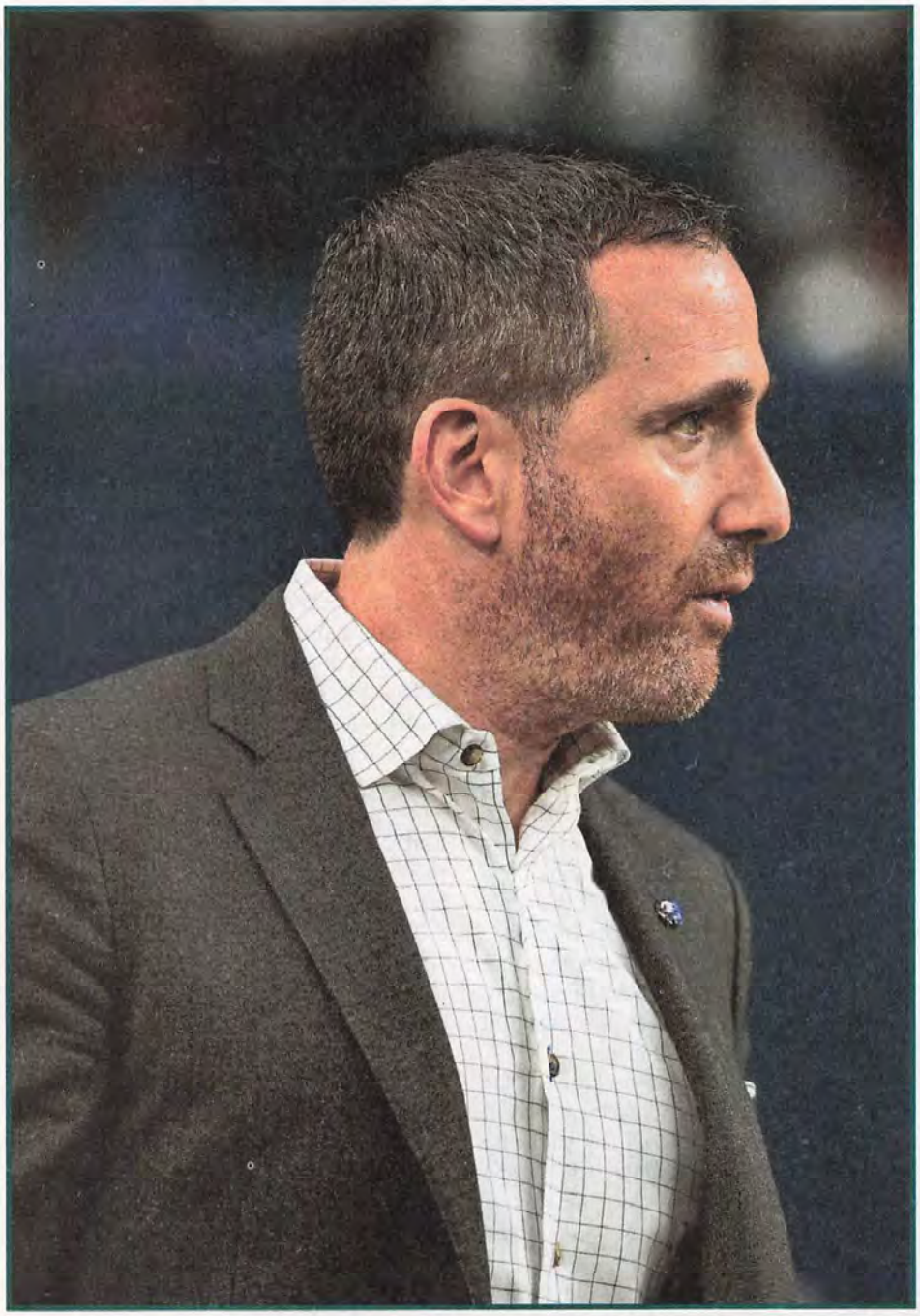
"No one knows, but I know, God-willing, he can reach it because of all the factors that he has," said Sirianni. "He's not all of a sudden different because he's still putting in the work like you've seen him put in the work the last couple of years."

## WORK ETHIC

Hurts' work ethic is widely known by his teammates.

They see him when they arrive at the facility every morning and they still see him there when they leave.

That's because Hurts gets to work as the sun rises and doesn't depart until well after the sun sets.



Philadelphia Eagles general manager Howie Roseman

Photo by Maria Lysaker-USA TODAY Sports

**Philadelphia Eagles center Jason Kelce**

Photo by Daniel Bartel-USA TODAY Sports

Veteran center Jason Kelce and his teammates have noticed.

Hurts is a very big reason why Kelce decided not to retire after the 2022 season, instead choosing to return for a 13th NFL season, during which he will turn 36 in November.

"He's clearly changed the dynamic of this team and offense, and it's pretty hard to defend right now because of him," said Kelce. "I think you go into every year thinking you're going to be a Super Bowl contender. I think, he has proven that he is in that class of player that is going to give your organization an opportunity to go to Super Bowls year after year."

Even recently signed free agents know about Hurts and what he brings.

"He's a great quarterback, a great leader," said Kentavius Street, the former New Orleans Saints defensive tackle who signed with the Eagles on March 31. "The guys want to protect him. They want to play with him. And I think they feed off his energy. He has a calm demeanor that you want in a quarterback. He has a cool head."

Marcus Mariota signed to be Hurts' backup on March 17. Only 29, he still wants to be a starter, but the allure of playing with Hurts and enjoying the game was too much to pass up.

"I feel like I can help Jalen, and if we can make Jalen a better player, this team's going to be better," said Mariota.

It's more than just the quarterback's work ethic, though.

It's a maturity level that Lurie said he has never seen before from someone so young.

"I think the future is so great for him," said the owner. "He's 24-years-old. Honestly, I don't know if I ever met somebody that mature at 24.

"Each franchise quarterback is different ... and once you can find it, that's when you're really excited. We'll be working with Jalen I'm sure for a long time."

# NFL RIDING THE WAVE OF LEGALIZED SPORTS BETTING

BY JEFF EDELSTEIN

Photo by AP Photo/Wayne Parry

Once upon a time, the NFL was against — and aghast at — the concept of legalized sports betting. A quick tour of a trio of quotes from NFL commissioners past and present ...

*"Professional football, like other team sports, is grounded on the absolute integrity of its games and its participants. No one does, or could, dispute the absolute necessity of keeping our game free not only from scandal but, even more so, from suspicion of scandal. Legal betting would be tragic." — Pete Rozelle, 1975.*

*"We do not want our games used as bait to sell gambling. We should not gamble with our children's heroes. Our games embody our very finest traditions and values. They stand for healthy competition, teamwork, success through preparation, and honest effort. With legalized sports gambling, our games instead would come to represent the fast buck, the quick fix, the desire to get something for nothing." — Paul Tagliabue, 1991.*

*"If gambling is permitted freely on sporting events, normal incidents of the game such as bad snaps, dropped passes, turnovers, penalties, and play-calling inevitably will fuel speculation, distrust, and accusations of point-shaving or game-fixing." — Roger Goodell, 2012.*

Well ... things change. Do they ever.

Specifically, the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA), which was overturned by the United States Supreme Court in 2018 and opened the sports betting floodgates, as states were now free to choose whether they wanted to embrace sports betting, or not.

Speaking of embracing sports betting ... oh Roger!

"We're going to find ways we can engage fans through legalized sports betting." — Goodell, again, this time in 2021.

So yeah. You can say the NFL has done a 180 on its stance when it comes to legalized wagering on their sport. It was one of the quicker 180s in recorded history.

And the public has predictably embraced legal sports betting equally and as quickly.

In fact, nearly 47 million Americans — which accounts for nearly 20 percent of the adult population — bet on the NFL in one way or another during the 2022 season, according to the American Gaming Association, with nearly half of those people betting online at legal sportsbooks.

Currently, 33 states and the District of Columbia allow betting on NFL games, but three big ones — literally, the three biggest states by population, California, Texas, and Florida — are still on the sidelines. Those three states represent another 15 million or so Americans — based on the AGA's statistics — of football bettors.

Clearly, NFL betting has exploded in the five years since PASPA fell. And while NFL commissioners did an about face and sports bettors crawled out of the woodwork, the defeat of PASPA was not a sure thing. In fact, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie — who brought the state's case to allow sports wagering all the way to the Supreme Court — wasn't entirely convinced it was going to happen the way it did.

"I absolutely thought we were legally correct," Christie recalled earlier this year on the "Gamble On" podcast from USBets. "But I also believed we'd have to go to the U.S. Supreme Court to get it done. I didn't think there was going to be any district court judge or circuit court judge that was going to have the stones to overturn PASPA in light of the NFL, MLB, NBA, NHL and NCAA all saying no. I'd probably put us at +150 (to overturn PASPA) when we started."

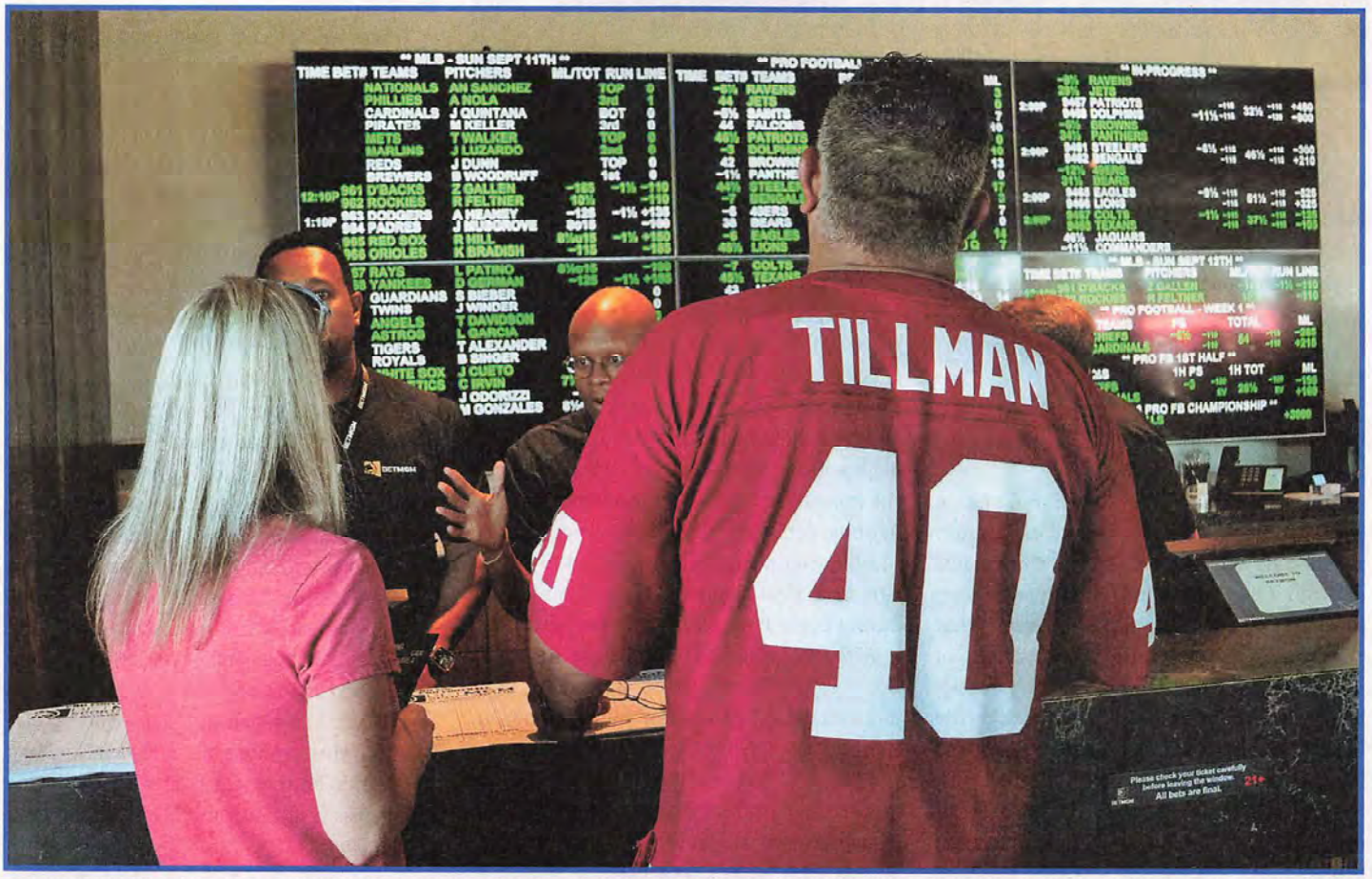
And those odds seemed to grow longer as the case dragged on. Six times the case got in front of a judge; six times it was denied; six times it was appealed.

Third time's a charm? More like the seventh.

Christie — who had been term-limited out of the office of the governor of New Jersey — still got himself a front-row seat for the Supreme Court hearing, and what he heard early on was music to his ears.

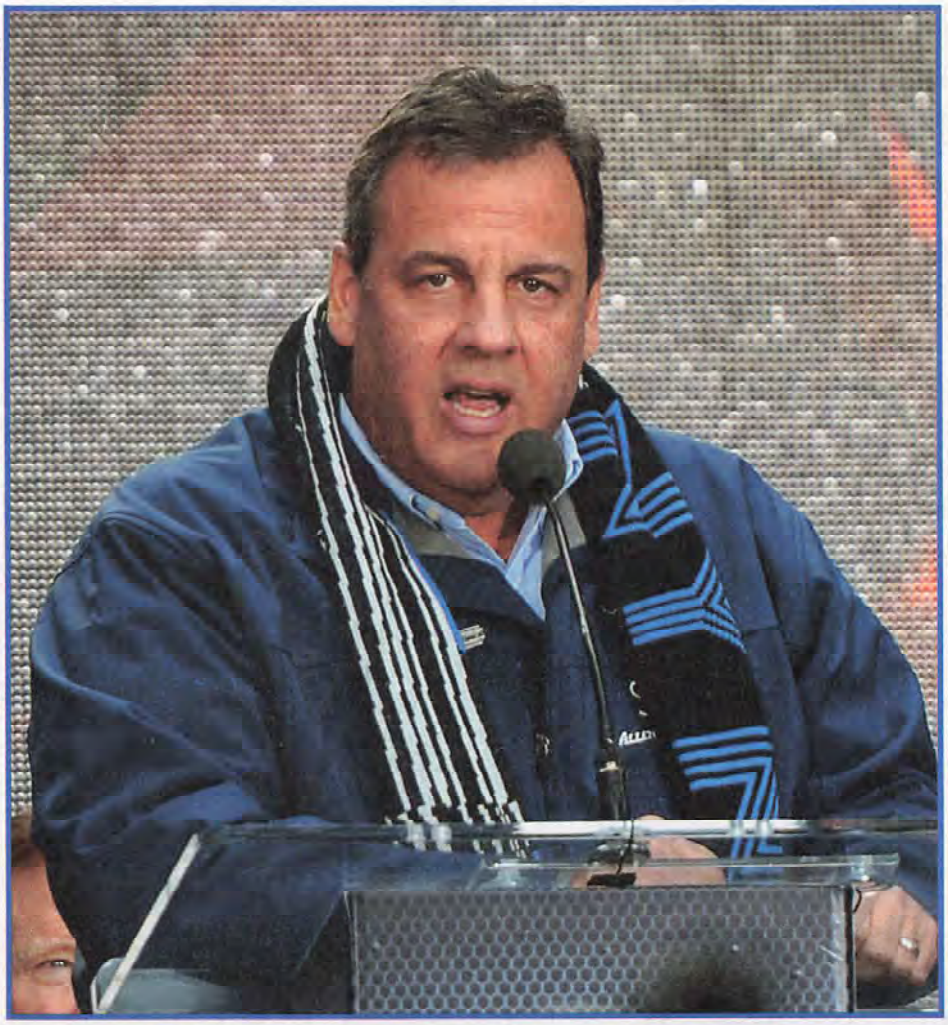
"It was very clear from about 10 minutes into the argument that we were going to win," Christie said. "Look, we lost six times before we won. Ted Olson (the state's lawyer) called me and said, 'I know you've spent millions of dollars on me, I know I'm 0-and-6 right now, but I'm telling you, if you give me one more shot at the Supreme Court, I think we'll win.' And I said, 'All right Ted, how much will it cost to go to the Supreme Court?' and he said a million dollars.

"And I said let's do it," Christie continued. "If we win, we're going to make a hell of a lot more than that as a state and across the country, and if we lose, well, I've already spent $6 and a half million, so what's the difference




**Inside a Legal Sportsbook**

Photo by Rob Schumacher/The Republic



**Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie Persevered**

Photo by Kirby Lee-USA TODAY Sports

between that and $7 and a half million at this point. Let's try and bring it home."

Christie's gamble paid off, and now billions — we're talking tens of billions — of dollars are wagered legally on the sport each year.

The NFL, in fact, has embraced sports betting to the point this season's Super Bowl is being held in Las Vegas.

The idea of holding the Big Game in Vegas would've been scoffed at as recently as a decade ago. Now, of course, the Raiders call Sin City home and this year's Super Bowl is as clear an indication as any that the NFL is not only no longer afraid of being lumped together with sports betting, but is actively seeking to engage with the betting industry and capitalize on any and all opportunities presented.

After all, the league has shared its ever-protected "Shield" with numerous sportsbooks, partnering with FanDuel, DraftKings, Caesars, and others and letting them use the NFL branding and logos and granting them access to official league data. These deals are reportedly worth over a billion dollars to the league.

The sportsbooks are also now part of the NFL's marketing and advertising plan, which creates a win-win situation for both. The sportsbooks get the blessing of the NFL, and the NFL benefits with increased fan engagement. BetMGM has a sportsbook on the grounds of State Farm Stadium where the Arizona Cardinals play. Club owner Michael Bidwill even mentioned the ability to bet on site at a Host Committee press conference during Super Bowl week this past February.

After all, while NFL football is America's No. 1 sport, there's no denying it's a little more exciting with a few bucks riding on the line.

"The NFL has evolved quickly with the growing importance of sports betting on the overall ecosystem," Robert Fishman, a senior analyst with MoffettNathanson, a division of SVB Securities, told the Associated Press last year. "Sports betting is continuing to grow in importance and will continue to be a driver of growth. We're still in the very early days and there will be a natural evolution of how this continues to grow."

Of course, it hasn't completely been all sunshine and roses for the NFL when it comes to legalized sports betting.

For example 1A — and, for the NFL and the sports betting companies, hopefully the only example ever — see Calvin Ridley, now of the Jacksonville Jaguars.

On Oct. 7, 2021, Ridley, then of the Atlanta Falcons, didn't board the team plane to London for the Falcons games against the Jets, claiming personal reasons.

He came back two weeks later for the team's game in Miami, hauling in a quartet of passes and a touchdown. But the following week, he announced he was stepping away from the team to concentrate on his mental health.

A month later, while away from the team on the non-football injury list, Ridley reportedly wagered over $3,900 spread across six bets on the Falcons, including five parlays.

Ridley lost all those bets, and then, in March of 2022 after a league investigation, Ridley was indefinitely suspended from the NFL.

"There is nothing more fundamental to the NFL's success — and to the reputation of everyone associated with our league — than upholding the integrity of the game," Goodell wrote to Ridley in a letter released to the public. "This is the responsibility of every player, coach, owner, game official, and anyone else employed in the league. Your actions put the integrity of the game at risk, threatened to damage public confidence in professional football, and potentially undermined the reputations of your fellow players throughout the NFL. For decades, gambling on NFL games has been considered among the most significant violations of league policy warranting the most substantial sanction. In your case, I acknowledge and commend you for your promptly reporting for an interview, and for admitting your actions."

Ridley served a full-year suspension, and is now back in the good graces of the league.

Another bit of negativity when it comes to the NFL and legalized sports betting has been the sheer volume of commercials hyping the sports betting companies, both during NFL games and, basically, every other hour of the day.

To that end, NFL vice president of public policy and government affairs Jonathan Nabavi spearheaded the creation of The

Coalition for Responsible Sports Betting Advertising, which consists of the NFL, NBA, NHL, Major League Baseball, WNBA, NASCAR and MLS, along with media outlets NBCUniversal and Fox.

The coalition issued a six-point plan for dealing with sportsbook advertising, including making sure sports betting is only being marketed to adults of a legal betting age, that the advertising shouldn't promote irresponsible or excessive gambling, to ensure the ads aren't misleading and are in good taste, and that publishers of the ads retain the right to internally review them and to respond proactively to consumer complaints.

This coalition was put together, in no doubt, to help stem the anti-sports betting advertising tide that has swept through political offices around the nation, all the way to the United States Congress, where Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY) wrote a bill that would pretty much ban all sportsbook advertising.

And while the Ridley suspension and the ongoing advertising backlash are blemishes on the sportsbook front, it's fair to say the NFL has only just begun to scratch the surface of what sports betting will bring to the fan experience.

Right now, traditional bets are still the bread-and-butter for the average fan. Spreads, money lines, and totals dominate the sports betting landscape.

Additionally, player props have become increasingly popular, with "who will score the first touchdown" quickly rising as a very popular wager.

Additionally, single-game parlays — first introduced to the American betting public by FanDuel — have become a dominant force in the industry. All the sportsbooks heavily promote them, most likely because they are proving to be highly profitable. But bettors also love them, because they offer plenty of bang for the buck, with relatively small wagers potentially paying out big money over the course of a game.

But perhaps the biggest — and as of now, still mostly untapped — market will be in-game wagering on the NFL.

These bets — which occur literally play-by-play — offer fans the chance to make more frequent bets, and allows fans who have a deeper understanding of the nuances of the game to potentially be more profitable with their wagering, as they can take advantage of the always-changing dynamics of a typical NFL game.

And for the NFL? Well, in-game betting is just about the alpha and omega for fan engagement. If the goal is keeping eyeballs glued to the action, having people constantly wagering — or thinking about wagering — on each play of the game is just about the best way to make that happen.

The biggest hurdle to in-game betting becoming the next big thing is, incredibly, technology. There is a lag between the action on the field and view from a TV screen. This year, with YouTube gaining rights to the NFL Sunday Ticket, the streaming lag — which, according to some reports, can be up to nearly a minute long — will be a major issue. But, as with most things in the world, if there's money to be made, you can be sure the best minds will be tackling the problem.

In short: Expect in-game betting to become a dominant way to wager on the NFL in the years to come.

All in all, the NFL and sports betting are like chocolate and peanut butter: Two great tastes that go great together. And like Reese's, expect the product menu to continue to grow. And grow. And grow some more after that.

**Breaking Ground for Sportsbooks Has Become Commonplace**

Photo by Alex Gould/The Republic

# PEELING BACK THE CURTAIN

## Some billion-dollar franchises are still getting away with penny-pinching measures; NFLPA team report cards aim to expose them

BY MIKE BEACOM

Photo by Kirby Lee-USA TODAY Sports

Vince Lombardi will forever be credited for popularizing "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing," even though Lombardi felt his words were taken out of context. The Packers' legendary head coach of the 1960s clarified sometime later that he had meant to emphasize "the *will* to win." Regardless, the overall message remained the same: winning ranks above all else.

But does it still?

This offseason, the Washington Commanders were expected to sell for a record $6.05 billion. The club has not won a Super Bowl since the 1991 season and has claimed only three playoff victories in the 31 NFL seasons since (its most recent in January 2006).

The NFL is a brand — a very lucrative brand — whose teams sell tickets, merchandise and sponsorships, regardless of success on the field. When it comes to the business of pro football in 2023, winning isn't the *only* thing; it may not even be the most important thing.

But one thing that did cast initial doubt for the Washington sale was the toxic culture that had been portrayed by media and former players. Turning a losing franchise into a winner can happen in a few seasons with the right changes and a little luck. But turning around a toxic workplace? It's something NFL franchises have largely neglected up to now.

This offseason, the NFL Players Association released team report cards to assess how well franchises are being run off the field. It was a bold move — one that's been in the works for some time — and it exposed where teams invest back

into the workplace to benefit "the product" that is largely responsible for ever-growing franchise valuations.

Wrote NFLPA President JC Tretter in March to accompany the report: " ... for the first time, we are peeling back the curtain on issues that we talk about among ourselves as players but have been unable to organize and publish in a centralized way."

## SO WHAT'S BEHIND THE CURTAIN?

The more than 1,300 players surveyed were asked to critique their team's performance in eight categories: treatment of families, nutrition, weight room, strength staff, training room, training staff, locker room and team travel. Players scored each category on a 1-5 scale and were encouraged to provide comments, where applicable. The only team to receive an A rating in all eight categories was Minnesota. Miami received A grades in seven of eight.

There was little correlation between overall team scores and recent on-field success. In fact, the top five-rated teams (Minnesota, Miami, Las Vegas, Houston and Dallas) were a combined 43-41-1 last season, with only the Cowboys winning a playoff game. The Texans' 3-13-1 record brought the numbers down and the other four teams were a combined 40-28.

Here's a snapshot of some of the feedback collected from players surveyed for the report:

- Because the Jaguars do not offer a family room, players' wives have breast-fed their babies on the floor of the stadium's public restrooms.
- If Cardinals players would like dinner, staff will box one up, but the team charges them via payroll deduction (apparently the only club in the league to do so).
- Some Washington players complained that there is a lack of warm water and poor drainage in the showers.
- Cincinnati's lockers do not have outlets for players to charge devices.
- The Colts are one of only six teams that require young players to have roommates during road trips, and one of seven teams that do not offer first-class tickets to any players.

To some, this may sound like entitlement, but others would argue multi-billion-dollar organizations can afford basic amenities for the lifeblood of these organizations.

When he heard of Washington's valuation, Miami head coach and one-time Washington assistant Mike McDaniel quipped, "Wow, the organization's worth *that* much? And I couldn't get free coffee!?"

Agent Neil Cornrich has been representing his clients' best interests for more than three decades. For Cornrich, that has always involved looking beyond what's outlined in the player's contract.

"We've always tried to tilt the playing field toward the player being selected by an organization which optimizes his best opportunity for success and longevity," he said.

According to Cornrich, many of the clubs he deals with understand that little things can make a big difference in a player's development and overall happiness. The report cards, he believes, could incentivize the other clubs to step up their game.

"These are $6 billion organizations now. There's no reason they can't invest in these areas to make it a healthier work environment."

## WILL POOR GRADES LEAD TO CHANGE?

In his March letter, Tretter outlined the three primary objectives of the team report cards: highlight positive clubs, identify clubs that need improvement, and highlight best practices and standards.

Some clubs took offense to the exercise. "They didn't want help; they wanted shock factor and embarrassment," one league executive told The Athletic's Kalyn Kahler this spring.

Motives aside, the team report cards illustrate that NFL players are largely underwhelmed by how much teams are investing in facilities and essential services. One-third of teams received a C grade or lower for their weight room, and one-half of teams received a C grade or lower for their training room. Only four teams received an A grade for their treatment of families.

Still, why should we believe that teams lagging behind the curve will succumb to peer pressure? Washington ranked 32nd in the NFLPA's first-ever team report cards and the news broke before owner Daniel Snyder received the $6 billion-plus bid — a number more than seven times the $800 million he paid for the club in 1999.

The answer could be the NFLPA's resolve.

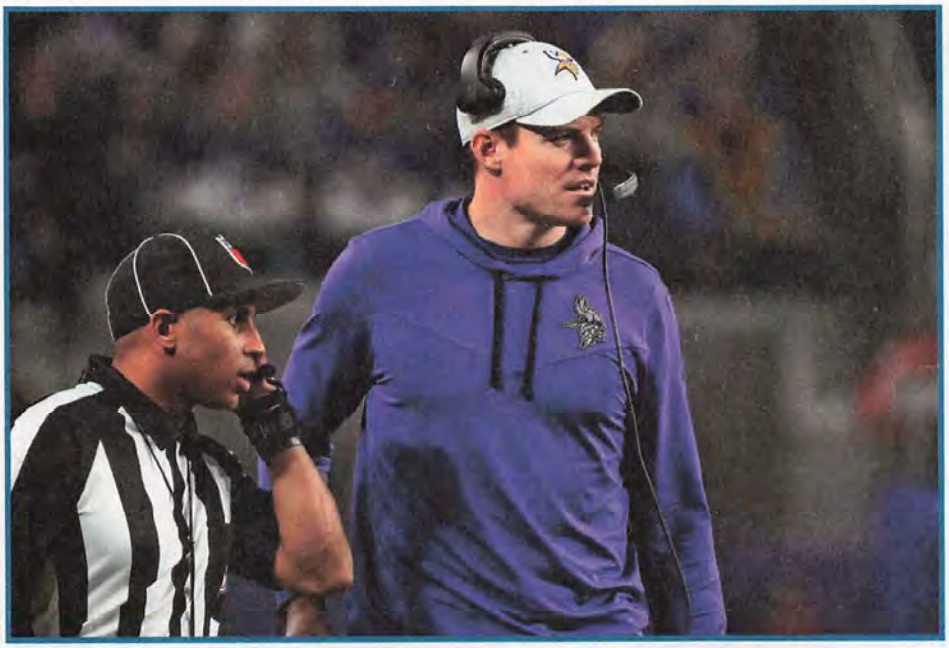
NFL management and labor have always been at odds. Prior to the 1970 season, as the NFL and AFL merged into one league and the two respective players' associations did the same, the players threatened their first strike. But management still had a stronghold over labor, and the players were poorly organized and lacked clear purpose.

"The guess was the players were primarily concerned about pension, insurance, disability benefits and things of that nature," said players' union attorney Ed Garvey in 2011. The players made small strides in 1974, 1982 and 1987 until securing the right to free agency in the early 1990s.

That long journey has allowed today's players to shift their focus from financial objectives to better workplace conditions. It fits the times we live in; a 2018 Gallup poll found millennials value working for an employer who cares about their well-being above all else.

But critics warn that unless players begin to weigh NFLPA report card findings heavily

**The Miami Dolphins New Weight Room**
Photo by GREG LOVETT/PALM BEACH POST



**Vikings Head Coach Kevin O'Connell Proud of Team's Culture**
Photo by AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

in free-agent considerations, this all will be nothing more than an annual news release.

Cornrich believes it's something that has always factored into player decisions.

One of his former clients, eight-time Pro Bowl guard Marshal Yanda, was a third-round selection by the Ravens in the 2007 NFL Draft. He spent his entire 13-year career in Baltimore, and many believe Yanda will soon be enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

"He had opportunities twice in free agency to go other places for more money and chose to stay in Baltimore because they were always successful and they treated people right," Cornrich said.

The Ravens scored favorably in several areas, but ranked near the bottom of the league in the weight room and strength staff categories. Just prior to the report card's release, the team fired strength and conditioning coach Steve Saunders.

Perhaps more than anything, the NFLPA report cards provide a glimpse into how players feel about ownership. Every Ravens player surveyed gave owner Steve Bisciotti a positive grade, probably because Bisciotti has been one owner who has consistently responded to the needs of his organization.

"It all comes from the top," said Cornrich. "Eddie DeBartolo is in the Hall of Fame for a reason, and Robert Kraft will be shortly."

## WHERE DO THINGS LEAD FROM HERE?

Tretter suggested the NFLPA will collect player feedback annually to measure progress and incentivize teams to invest in the workplace. At least a few teams have pledged they're prepared to do so.

The reigning Super Bowl champion Chiefs ranked 29th in the report, scoring no higher than 12th in any single category. Kansas City owner Clark Hunt told reporters during 2023 NFL Draft weekend: "Nobody likes criticism, but you know, from my standpoint, feedback is always positive, and so you know we'll take and learn from it."

The Arizona Cardinals ranked second-to-last in the report, but owner Michael Bidwill quickly took note. When Bidwill hired Jonathan Gannon to be the team's new head coach, the two talked at length about improving many of the areas that were later outlined in the report.

"The directive (from Bidwill) was, 'I want a fresh set of eyes on everything that we're doing with football operations, and I want to know between you and (general manager Monti Ossenfort), how it can be better and how we can improve that,'" Gannon told reporters. "So, not really concerned about what went on in the past. I'm concerned about how we move forward to help our team win."

Later, at the league meeting in March, Gannon said some "big-time changes" had already occurred.

"I'm not going to get too much into it," he added, "but food, weight room, facilities, contracts, Michael has been fantastic. He came in my office the other day saying he wanted technology (talked about) and graded. We had a couple meetings with the heads of departments and we said, 'We need this, this, and this; we don't need this,' and he's pulled the trigger on all of it.

"Everything I've said that I felt we wanted or needed has come to fruition."

Some have suggested there is a need to refine the next round of the report cards' criteria and add categories. Said Cornrich, "One thing these report cards don't mention, which I think they should, is medical staff. That's different from training staff."

There really is no limit to what the players can evaluate — practice and playing field conditions, team traditions, community outreach — but ultimately change will come when teams believe that a better work environment is marketable to prospective free agents, coaches and corporate sponsors. Those elements lead to wins, franchise stability and revenue.

Speaking to reporters at the Combine, second-year Vikings head coach Kevin O'Connell said his team's high scores are a reflection of the organization's commitment to building the right culture and connecting with players.

"Culture is people and it's something we strive to work on every single day, and I think our players feel that," O'Connell said.

He added, "One of the things that I look back on a year ago and I think about using words like connecting with our players and the collaboration that goes into what pro football should be at this level. It goes so much beyond those words and people kind of chuckle sometimes as you use some of these cliché-like words; well, they're not cliché when you go to work every day and try to join with a great group of people and a great support staff at every level of our organization. It's not a cliché when people make that our mission statement, to provide the premier place to go to work and improve both personally and collectively as a team in our league means a lot to us."

The Vikings didn't lure any high-profile talent to the Twin Cities this offseason selling culture, and they aren't among the favorites to compete for the Super Bowl. But nothing happens overnight in pro football. A few years from now, the March release of the NFLPA's team report cards could be necessary reading for players heading into free agency.

And while no one is arguing that state-of-the-art training rooms and first-class tickets lead to more wins, or even higher franchise valuations, what the NFLPA is saying is that taking better care of the players (and those around them) will lead to better management-labor relations and possibly a higher probability for prolonged success in the league.

"Happy, healthy players usually have happy, healthy careers," said Cornrich. "Everyone should be in favor of that."

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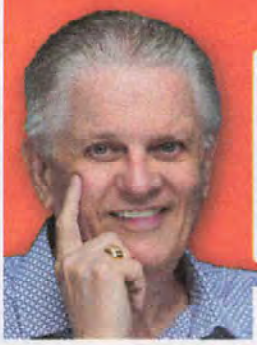

# Marc Lawrence's PLAYBOOK

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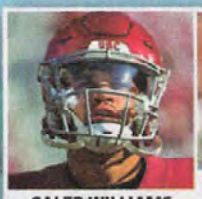

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Tyreek Hill Photo by Jasen Vinlove – USA TODAY Sports

# Can Hurts and Eagles Match 2022 Success?

Now that Jalen Hurts is the second highest-paid player per year in NFL history, the pressure is on him to duplicate his breakout season of 2022 when he took the Eagles to the Super Bowl in only his third season. Philly fans love him now, but the vocal audience won't cut him any slack if he regresses.

## DALLAS COWBOYS

Are the expectations simply too high for Dak Prescott, who has never been as good as he was his rookie year in 2016 taking over for Tony Romo? Prescott has not led the Cowboys past the second round of the playoffs and last year his 15 interceptions tied for the most despite missing five starts. Cee Dee Lamb emerged as an elite receiver in 2022 with 107 catches, 1,359 yards and nine touchdowns, all career highs. The running game will look different with Tony Pollard taking over as the starter for Ezekiel Elliott, who had slowed down to a crawl and was cut in the offseason. Micah Parsons is not the next Lawrence Taylor, but he's a game changer with 26.5 sacks and 149 tackles in two seasons. Trevon Diggs's interceptions dropped from 11 in 2021, the most in the NFL since 1981, down to only three last year, and he gets beat too often, but he's a playmaker and Dallas's best defensive back.

## NEW YORK GIANTS

One year ago, Daniel Jones was playing for his job when the Giants elected not to pick up his fifth-year option. After Jones led New York to a surprising 9-7-1 season plus a wild-card victory in Minnesota, the Giants' first playoff victory since Super Bowl XLVI, he's now playing for $40 million a year with his new four-year $160 million contract. He flourished (3,205 yards passing, 708 yards rushing) with first-year head coach Brian Daboll even without a true No. 1 or No. 2 receiver. Trading for Raiders tight end Darren Waller and drafting speedster receiver Jalin Hyatt in the third round should help him increase his modest 15 touchdown passes. After three years of injuries, running back Saquon Barkley returned to his rookie form with a career-high 1,312 yards. Tackle Dexter Lawrence is the anchor of the aggressive defense designed by star coordinator Wink Martindale.

## PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Hurts was the best player on the field in Philly's Super Bowl loss, including MVP Patrick Mahomes. Can Hurts prove he's truly elite after cashing in with his five-year $255 million contract that includes $179.3 million guaranteed? The addition last season of A.J. Brown (88 catches, 1,496 yards, 11 touchdowns) to go along with DeVonta Smith (95 catches, 1,196 yards, seven touchdowns) gave Hurts a dynamic set of wideouts. They replaced leading rusher Miles Sanders with D'Andre Swift. Philly also lost defensive tackle Javon Hargrave, linebacker T.J. Edwards and safety C.J. Gardner-Johnson and both coordinators. They picked off Georgia defensive tackle Jalen Carter at No. 9 in the first round. He was considered the best player in the draft, but issues away from the field scared off teams.

## WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

See ya, Danny Boy. Snyder bought the team in 1999 and in his 24 years of ownership, the Redskins/Commanders made the playoffs six times and won two wild-card games. Not good. The off-the-field scandals were even worse than the Commanders putrid play and led to Snyder's demise. Head coach Ron Rivera tried to run a professional operation, but the distraction caused by the owner helped produce a 22-27-1 record in his first three years. He goes into 2023 with Sam Howell (he started one game as a rookie in 2022 and beat the Cowboys) as his quarterback with journeyman Jacoby Brissett signed to challenge him. The most significant addition is offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy from the Chiefs, who escapes from the large shadow of Andy Reid. As Dorothy once said, "Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas (City) anymore." Which means no Patrick Mahomes.

## STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

| | Overall | Div. | 8 Non Div. | 3 Non Div. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Philadelphia | .566 | .588 | .504 | .686 |
| Dallas | .549 | .627 | .504 | .510 |
| New York | .549 | .676 | .504 | .412 |
| Washington | .535 | .686 | .504 | .294 |

8 Non-Div. are games vs. two common divisions;
3 Non-Div. are games vs. teams with same place in standings.

## 5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

**1. Does Eagles general manager Howie Roseman realize he is allowed to draft players from schools other than Georgia?**

Last year, he drafted defensive lineman Jordan Davis in the first round and linebacker Nakobe Dean in the third from the Dawgs dominating championship defense. This year, he drafted Carter and edge rusher Nolan Smith in the first round and cornerback Kelee Ringo in the fourth after Georgia won the national title again. It's not a bad business plan.

**2. Is Ron Rivera on the hot seat?**

It's sizzling. New owners ultimately want their own front-office and coaching staff. There's one way for Rivera to be back in 2024. He must win in 2023.

**3. Was last year a fluke for the Giants?**

In the five seasons prior to 2022, the Giants were 22-59, tied with the Jets for the worst record in the league. They took advantage of superior coaching by Brian Daboll, an easy schedule (they played the AFC South) and were 8-4-1 in games decided by eight or fewer points. They have more talent this year and could be a better team, but still not equal last year's record.

**4. Has the window closed on the Cowboys?**

Call your favorite repairman. The window is stuck in the shut position.

**5. What is the must-see matchup?**

Cowboys at Eagles. It's one of the best rivalries in the NFL and almost every time they play it's meaningful. The games in Philly bring the worst out of the Eagles fans, which is always fun as long as they don't throw anything.

— Gary Myers

# DALLAS COWBOYS

## Cowboys Seek Playoff Success

The Cowboys went 12-5 in each of the past two seasons, marking the first time they have had back-to-back 12-win seasons since 1992-1995 when they won three Super Bowl titles.

But instead of ushering in a new championship era, the past two 12-win seasons ended with bitter playoff losses to the San Francisco 49ers.

The Cowboys still have not reached the NFC title game since 1995 and have now gone 27 seasons since their last Super Bowl.

On one hand, the past two seasons could be looked at as a step of progress for the Cowboys, as head coach Mike McCarthy says the best way to break through in the playoffs is to keep getting there.

On the other hand, the past two seasons still show how far the Cowboys have to go to be champions again.

It ushered in an offseason of change for the Cowboys and McCarthy, who finds himself on the hot seat heading to 2023 with an apparent Super Bowl-or-bust edict.

McCarthy made a host of coaching changes and took over play-calling duties from departed offensive coordinator Kellen Moore.

The Cowboys cut two-time rushing champion Ezekiel Elliott. And they were aggressive in the offseason with trades for receiver Brandin Cooks and cornerback Stephen Gilmore, while adding a starting defensive tackle and a starting tight end in the first two rounds of the draft, giving quarterback Dak Prescott and All-Pro Micah Parsons some much-needed help in hopes of finally making the Cowboys winners again.

**Dak Prescott**

Photo by Greg Trott via AP

**2** PROJECTED FINISH

**2022 RECORD:** 13-6

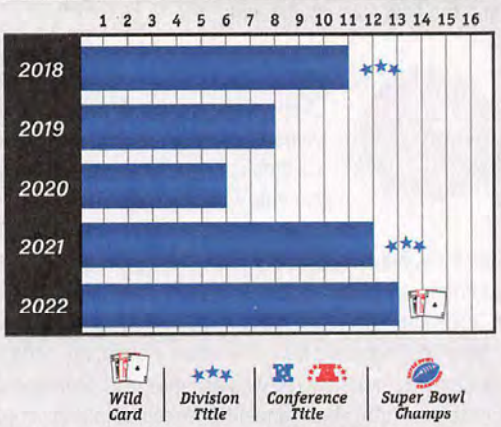
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 4-2

**STADIUM:** AT&T Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 80,000 (expandable to 100,000)

**SURFACE:** Matrix Sportfield Softtop

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

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**TRAINING CAMP:** Oxnard, Calif.
**HEAD COACH:** Mike McCarthy
- 4th season with Cowboys
- 31-22 overall; 1-2 postseason
- 17th season as NFL head coach
- 166-107-2 overall; 11-10 postseason

**OWNER/PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER:** Jerry Jones
**COO/EXEC. VICE PRESIDENT/DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Stephen Jones
**VICE PRESIDENT/PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Will McClay
**DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Mitch LaPoint
**DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:** Alex Loomis

## COACHING STAFF

| Coach | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Brian Schottenheimer | Offensive coordinator | 23 | 1 |
| Scott Tolzien | Quarterbacks | 4 | 4 |
| Mike Solari | Offensive line | 34 | 1 |
| Ramon Chinyoung | QC/assistant line | 2 | 1 |
| Jeff Blasko | *Running backs | 7 | 4 |
| Robert Prince | Receivers | 16 | 2 |
| Lunda Wells | Tight ends | 12 | 4 |
| Chase Haslett | Assistant tight ends | 4 | 4 |
| Ryan Feder | Off. asst./game mgmt.. | 8 | 4 |
| Will Harriger | Offensive assistant/QC | 9 | 1 |
| Evan Harrington | Offensive assistant | 2 | 2 |
| Dan Quinn | Defensive coordinator | 21 | 3 |
| Aden Durde | Defensive line | 6 | 3 |
| Sharrif Floyd | QC/assistant line | 1 | 1 |
| Scott McCurley | Linebackers | 14 | 4 |
| Darian Thompson | QC/asst. linebacker | 1 | 1 |
| Al Harris | Defensive backs | 10 | 4 |
| Joe Whitt Jr. | @Defensive backs | 17 | 3 |
| Cannon Matthews | Asst. defensive backs | 15 | 4 |
| Pete Ohnegian | Defensive assistant/QC | 1 | 1 |
| John Fassel | Special teams coord. | 19 | 4 |
| Rayna Stewart | Asst. special teams | 7 | 2 |
| Harold Nash Jr. | S&C coordinator | 19 | 4 |
| Kendall Smith | Assistant S&C | 11 | 11 |
| Cedric Smith | Assistant S&C | 23 | 4 |
| Eric Simonelli | Quality control/analytics | 4 | 4 |

*Offensive run game coordinator
@Defensive pass game coordinator

## COWBOYS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/24 | Tyler Smith | T/G | Starter |
| 2021 | 1/12 | Micah Parsons | LB | Starter |
| 2020 | 1/17 | CeeDee Lamb | WR | Starter |
| 2019 | 2/58 | Trysten Hill | DT | UFA |
| 2018 | 1/19 | Leighton Vander Esch | LB | Starter |

## COACHING

With his job perhaps on the line, McCarthy is going back to his roots as the mastermind on offense after allowing Kellen Moore to call plays his first three seasons with the team. McCarthy called the plays for all 13 of his seasons as the Packers' head coach and his unit ranked in the top 10 in points nine times, including twice leading the league, and in yards nine times. He's bringing back the West Coast offense with the focus on running the ball more and being more efficient. He says the playbook will change roughly 30 to 35 percent, but it's what McCarthy does in crunch time and crucial down and distances that will make the difference for the Cowboys.

Arguably, the biggest move the Cowboys made in the offseason was keeping defensive coordinator Dan Quinn for a third season. He had head coaching opportunities, but chose to remain in Dallas. Under Quinn, the Cowboys have led the NFL in takeaways in back-to-back seasons for the first time since the Pittsburgh Steelers of the 1970s.

**RATING: 7**

## QUARTERBACKS

Dak Prescott remains the man in charge of the offense and he has led the team to the playoffs in four of his seven years as quarterback, including three division titles. But Prescott must show he can take the next step in the postseason. His primary focus is to rid himself of the turnovers that plagued him in 2022. Prescott threw a league-leading 15 picks in 12 regular-season games. Prescott and McCarthy dissected every interception from 2022. He needs to make better decisions and the Cowboys need to do a better job of protecting him. Prescott didn't miss a game his first four seasons, but has not played a full season since 2019. He missed 11 in 2020, one in 2021 and five last season. The reliable Cooper Rush is back as Prescott's understudy. Rush is 5-1 the past two seasons as a starter.

**RATING: 8**

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

The early-season loss of Dak Prescott certainly limited the Dallas offense, but it also paved the way for rookie TEs **Jake Ferguson** and **Peyton Hendershot** to be targeted more than expected. Their production was a revelation, as they combined for 30 catches, 277 receiving yards and four touchdowns. It also enabled the front office to let Dalton Schultz (Texans) walk away during the offseason. More will be needed from both players in 2023. ... The Cowboys anticipate OL **Tyler Smith** to be a foundation along the offensive line for many years to come. Selected in the first round to start at left guard, he found himself at left tackle after an injury to Tyron Smith. While the immediate starting alignment remains unknown, the second-year Smith has Pro Bowl potential. ... It was exciting to watch DE **Sam Williams** utilized in pass-rush situations as a rookie. He was able to take advantage of his burst and bend, on his way to four sacks, plus 10 tackles for loss and nine QB hits. Expect Williams to be even more of a menace in the opposing backfield as the third "amigo" to Micah Parsons and DeMarcus Lawrence. ... One rookie who exceeded expectations was CB **DaRon Bland**, whose versatility allows him to step in at multiple spots in the secondary.

## RUNNING BACKS

McCarthy wants to run the ball more in 2023 to "rest my damn defense." He will do so without two-time NFL rushing champion Ezekiel Elliott, who was released for cap reasons and declining production. Tony Pollard is the new face of the running game. He is the team's best weapon after rushing for a career-high 1,007 rushing yards and scoring 12 touchdowns in 2022, making the Pro Bowl for the first time. Pollard, who is playing on the franchise tag, is coming off an ankle inju-

## ON THE HOT SEAT

DAK PRESCOTT

The Cowboys say they have no questions about Prescott being their quarterback for the next 10 years. They even talked about giving him a contract extension to help lower his $59 million cap number in the final year of his deal in 2024. But if Prescott doesn't cut down his season-high 15 interceptions and prove that he can at least take them to the NFC title game next season, might the Cowboys consider moving away from him and start fresh at quarterback? If an extension is not done before or during the 2023 season, everything is on the table heading into 2024 and how he plays will go a long way towards proving an answer.

# COWBOYS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 83 | Brooks, Jalen | 6-2 | 205 | R | South Carolina | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 DALL 23 | A seventh-round pick who is a developmental project. practice-squad option as rookie. |
| **3** | **Cooks, Brandin** | **5-10** | **189** | **10** | **Oregon State** | **13/13/0/4** | **T,HOUS 23** | **D1 NO 14** | **Should bring juice to an offense needing a guy to take the top off the defense.** |
| 81 | *Fehoko, Simi | 6-3 | 220 | 3 | Stanford | 5/0/0/0 | D5 21 | D5 DALL 21 | Has three career catches. Must find a role or he won't make it out of training camp. |
| **87** | **Ferguson, Jake (TE)** | **6-5** | **244** | **2** | **Wisconsin** | **16/8/0/1** | **D4 22** | **D4 DALL 22** | **Had a strong rookie campaign in 2022; will share the starting role at tight end.** |
| 13 | Gallup, Michael | 6-1 | 198 | 6 | Colorado State | 14/11/0/3 | D3 18 | D3 DALL 18 | Struggled returning from a torn ACL last season. Must bounce back with strong 2023. |
| 89 | Hendershot, Peyton (TE) | 6-4 | 254 | 2 | Indiana | 17/2 | CFA 22 | CFA DALL 22 | Was an undrafted rookie surprise last season. Should take second-year jump in 2023. |
| **88** | **Lamb, CeeDee (RS)** | **6-2** | **200** | **4** | **Oklahoma** | **17/17** | **D1 20** | **D1 DALL 20** | **Caught 107 passes in 2022 and is another season away from huge contract.** |
| 84 | McKeon, Sean (TE) | 6-5 | 238 | 4 | Michigan | 13/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA DALL 20 | He will be hard-pressed to make the roster in 2023 after Cowboys drafted Schoonmaker. |
| **86** | **Schoonmaker, Luke (TE)** | **6-5** | **250** | **R** | **Michigan** | **0/0** | **D2 23** | **D2 DALL 23** | **The second-round pick will be a walk-in starter. Strong blocker and good receiver.** |
| 18 | Tolbert, Jalen | 6-1 | 195 | 2 | South Alabama | 8/1/0/9 | D3 22 | D3 DALL 22 | A huge disappointment as a rookie last season. Must take huge step forward in Year 2. |
| 9 | Turpin, KaVontae | 5-9 | 153 | 2 | Texas Christian | 17/0 | CFA 22 | CFA DALL 22 | Made the Pro Bowl as a returner last season. Needs to show he can impact offense. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 75 | Ball, Josh (T) | 6-8 | 304 | 3 | Marshall | 13/0/4/0 | D4 21 | D4 DALL 21 | Will be cross-trained at guard and tackle. Must find a role in Year 3 with Cowboys. |
| **63** | **Biadasz, Tyler (C)** | **6-3** | **316** | **4** | **Wisconsin** | **16/16/0/1** | **D4 20** | **D4 DALL 20** | **Has 33 starts the past two seasons at center. Needs to improve as a run blocker.** |
| 71 | *Edoga, Chuma (T/G) | 6-3 | 308 | 4 | Southern Cal | 2/1/1/11 | UFA,ATL 23 | D3 NYJ 19 | A career tackle, Edoga is getting a look as a possible answer at left guard. |
| 68 | *Farniok, Matt (G) | 6-5 | 311 | 3 | Nebraska | 7/2/0/0 | D7 21 | D7 DALL 21 | Has not shown much as backup center or guard. Won't make another season. |
| **70** | **Martin, Zack (RG)** | **6-4** | **315** | **10** | **Notre Dame** | **17/17** | **D1 14** | **D1 DALL 14** | **There is no better guard in the NFL. He may end up being best Cowboys guard ever.** |
| 76 | Richards, Asim (G) | 6-4 | 307 | R | North Carolina | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 DALL 23 | A tackle at North Carolina, but thick body build makes him a guard in NFL. |
| **73** | **Smith, Tyler (LT)** | **6-6** | **332** | **2** | **Tulsa** | **17/17** | **D1 22** | **D1 DALL 22** | **It's in Cowboys best interest to keep Tyler Smith at left tackle for years to come.** |
| **77** | **Smith, Tyron (RT)** | **6-5** | **320** | **13** | **Southern Cal** | **4/4/0/0** | **D1 11** | **D1 DALL 11** | **Tyron Smith will compete at right tackle or he could be the swing tackle in 2023.** |
| **78** | ***Steele, Terence (LG)** | **6-6** | **310** | **4** | **Texas Tech** | **13/13/0/0** | **CFA 20** | **CFA DALL 20** | **Returning from torn ACL. Cowboys best right tackle, but will cross-train at LG.** |
| 79 | *Waletzko, Matt (T) | 6-8 | 305 | 2 | North Dakota State | 3/0/1/2 | D5 22 | D5 DALL 22 | Missed rookie season with injury; needs to find way to become swing tackle. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 34 | Davis, Malik | 5-10 | 202 | 2 | Florida | 12/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA DALL 22 | Showed promise as a runner as a rookie last season. Could be short-yardage option. |
| 23 | *Dowdle, Rico | 6-0 | 215 | 4 | South Carolina | 5/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA DALL 20 | Just missed making the roster the past two seasons. The ship has sailed for Dowdle. |
| 32 | Jones II, Ronald | 5-11 | 208 | 6 | Southern Cal | 6/0/1/10 | UFA,KC 23 | D2 TB 18 | Played only 23 snaps in 2022 with Kansas City; not a lock for roster spot. |
| **20** | **Pollard, Tony** | **6-0** | **209** | **5** | **Memphis** | **16/4/0/1** | **D4 19** | **D4 DALL 19** | **How will Pollard recover from fractured ankle, handle new role as the primary back?** |
| 42 | Vaughn, Deuce | 5-6 | 176 | R | Kansas State | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 DALL 23 | Don't let size fool you. Speedy Vaughn has surprising strength. Will break ankles. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | Grier, Will | 6-1 | 220 | 5 | West Virginia | 0/0/5/11 | FA 22 | D3 CARO 19 | Brought back to compete with Rush for backup job, but should survive as third QB. |
| **4** | **Prescott, Dak** | **6-2** | **238** | **8** | **Mississippi State** | **12/12/0/5** | **D4 16** | **D4 DALL 16** | **Were the league-high 15 interceptions last year an aberration? 2023 will tell story.** |
| 10 | Rush, Cooper | 6-3 | 225 | 6 | Central Michigan | 9/5/8/0 | FA 22 | CFA DALL 17 | Was 4-1 as a starter in place of Prescott last season. That is the job of backup QB. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 92 | Armstrong, Dorance (E) | 6-4 | 255 | 6 | Kansas | 17/5 | D4 18 | D4 CLV 18 | Had career-high 8.5 sacks last season, but 5.5 came in the first seven games. |
| 98 | Bohanna, Quinton (T) | 6-4 | 360 | 3 | Kentucky | 13/9/0/4 | D6 21 | D6 DALL 21 | Writing is on the wall for Bohanna. The drafting of Mazi Smith has him on way out. |
| 93 | Fehoko Jr., Viliami (E) | 6-4 | 267 | R | San Jose State | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 DALL 23 | Developmental rookie end who will get a chance to rush passer from defensive tackle. |
| 56 | Fowler Jr., Dante (E) | 6-3 | 261 | 9 | Florida | 17/0 | FA 22 | D1 JAX 15 | Year 2 with Cowboys; should be more comfortable with Dan Quinn's defensive scheme. |
| 96 | Gallimore, Neville (T) | 6-2 | 302 | 4 | Oklahoma | 16/1/0/1 | D3 20 | D3 DALL 20 | Another veteran whose days are seemingly numbered in Dallas with the Mazi Smith pick. |
| 99 | Golston, Chauncey (E) | 6-5 | 268 | 3 | Iowa | 15/0/0/2 | D3 21 | D3 DALL 21 | Made move from end to tackle last season and provided a strong interior pass rush. |
| 95 | Hankins, Johnathan (T) | 6-2 | 320 | 11 | Ohio State | 10/4/0/2 | T,LV 22 | D2 NYG 13 | Was a key offseason re-signing. His presence made difference for Cowboys defense. |
| **90** | **Lawrence, DeMarcus (E)** | **6-3** | **265** | **10** | **Boise State** | **17/17** | **D2 14** | **D2 DALL 14** | **Still hasn't had double-digit sacks since 2018, but remains a strong all-around end.** |
| 59 | McKinley, Takk (E) | 6-2 | 250 | 6 | UCLA | 4/0/0/1 | FA 23 | D1 ATL 17 | Hoping to revive career with Quinn. Has to become Lawrence's backup on strong side. |
| **97** | **Odighizuwa, Osa (T)** | **6-2** | **280** | **3** | **UCLA** | **17/17** | **D3 21** | **D3 DALL 21** | **Has been team's best 3-technique, but needs to take another step as a pass rusher.** |
| **11** | **Parsons, Micah (E)** | **6-3** | **245** | **3** | **Penn State** | **17/17** | **D1 21** | **D1 DALL 21** | **Has bulked up to handle full-time move to end without losing speed as rusher.** |
| **58** | **Smith, Mazi (NT)** | **6-3** | **337** | **R** | **Michigan** | **0/0** | **D1 23** | **D1 DALL 23** | **First DT picked in first round by the Cowboys since 1992. Needs to force against run.** |
| 54 | Williams, Sam (E) | 6-4 | 261 | 2 | Mississippi | 15/0/0/2 | D2 22 | D2 DALL 22 | Had four sacks as a rookie. Needs to be more disciplined, but Year 2 jump expected. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **33** | **Clark, Damone (O)** | **6-2** | **240** | **2** | **Louisiana State** | **10/5/0/0** | **D5 22** | **D5 DALL 22** | **Overcame back injury to have a strong finish to 2023. Ready to take big Year-2 step.** |
| 14 | Cox, Jabril (O) | 6-3 | 233 | 3 | Louisiana State | 9/0/0/8 | D4 21 | D4 DALL 21 | Has been a huge disappointment so far. Blame a torn ACL. No excuses for him in 2023. |
| 50 | *Harper, Devin (O) | 6-0 | 234 | 2 | Oklahoma State | 3/0/0/4 | D6 22 | D6 DALL 21 | Needs to step up as a special-teams contributor and reserve linebacker in Year 2. |
| 35 | Overshown, DeMarvion (O) | 6-2 | 220 | R | Texas | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 DALL 23 | Should be impact player on special teams and have reserve role on defense as rookie. |
| **55** | **Vander Esch, Leighton (M)** | **6-4** | **256** | **6** | **Boise State** | **14/14/0/3** | **D1 18** | **D1 DALL 18** | **Had healthiest season in years in 2022; Cowboys need him to be QB on defense.** |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 41 | Bell, Markquese (S) | 6-2 | 205 | 2 | Florida A&M | 5/0/0/12 | CFA 22 | CFA DALL 22 | Made team as undrafted rookie last year, but needs to find a role to stay on roster. |
| 30 | Bland, DaRon (CB) | 6-0 | 197 | 2 | Fresno State | 17/8 | D5 22 | D5 DALL 22 | Led the Cowboys in interceptions as rookie. Will compete with Jourdan Lewis in slot. |
| **7** | **Diggs, Trevon (CB)** | **6-2** | **195** | **4** | **Alabama** | **17/17** | **D2 20** | **D2 DALL 20** | **Contract year looming for Diggs. Needs to take few chances and be more disciplined.** |
| **21** | **Gilmore, Stephon (CB)** | **6-0** | **190** | **12** | **South Carolina** | **16/16/0/1** | **T,IND 23** | **D1 BUFF 12** | **Former Defensive Player of the Year still has lot left in the tank as player, mentor.** |
| 29 | Goodwin, C.J. (CB) | 6-3 | 190 | 8 | California, Pa. | 17/0 | FA 20 | CFA PITT 14 | Has no role in regular defense. Here for special teams only. How long will ride last? |
| **28** | **Hooker, Malik (S)** | **6-2** | **212** | **6** | **Ohio State** | **16/6/0/1** | **FA 21** | **D1 IND 17** | **Has settled in nicely as the team's free safety and quarterback on the back end.** |
| 1 | Joseph, Kelvin (CB) | 6-1 | 192 | 3 | Kentucky | 16/1/0/1 | D2 21 | D2 DALL 21 | His play on special teams is reason he is still on roster. A disappointment at corner. |
| **27** | **Kearse, Jayron (S)** | **6-4** | **215** | **8** | **Clemson** | **14/14/0/3** | **FA 21** | **D7 MINN 16** | **Prototypical big safety who can support the run and cover tight ends.** |
| 2 | *Lewis, Jourdan (CB) | 5-10 | 195 | 7 | Michigan | 6/4/1/0 | D3 17 | D3 DALL 17 | Lisfranc injury cut strong 2022 season short. Will battle Bland at slot cornerback. |
| 24 | Mukuamu, Israel (S) | 6-4 | 205 | 3 | South Carolina | 15/3/0/2 | D6 21 | D6 DALL 21 | Showed promise as safety, nickel cornerback and outside cornerback. Future bright. |
| 37 | Scott Jr., Eric (CB) | 6-0 | 197 | R | Southern Mississippi | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 DALL 23 | The Cowboys traded up in the sixth round to get Scott, a Dan Quinn prototype long CB. |
| **6** | **Wilson, Donovan (S)** | **6-0** | **204** | **5** | **Texas A&M** | **17/17** | **D6 19** | **D6 DALL 19** | **Maybe the most valuable member of the secondary. Has nose for football vs. run, pass.** |
| 25 | Wright, Nahshon (CB) | 6-4 | 185 | 3 | Oregon State | 7/2/0/10 | D3 21 | D3 DALL 21 | Has yet to establish a role. Year 3 should be end of the road for Wright in Dallas. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Anger, Bryan (P) | 6-3 | 202 | 12 | California | 17/0 | FA 21 | D3 JAX 12 | Had a career-high tying average of 48.4 yards per punt in 2022, downed 27 inside 20. |
| 47 | Sieg, Trent (LS) | 6-3 | 240 | 6 | Colorado State | 17/0 | FA 23 | CFA BLT 18 | Played 80 games in last five years with the Raiders, including all 17 last season. |
| | Vizcaino, Tristan (K) | 6-2 | 205 | 2 | Washington | 3/0/0/0 | FA 23 | FA CIN 19 | Lone kicker in offseason, but likely won't be last man standing in training camp. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Antonio Callaway (2, Florida), Dontario Drummond (1, Mississippi), Dennis Houston (1, Western Illinois); TE Seth Green (1, Houston); Ts Isaac Alarcon (1, None), Alex Taylor (1, South Carolina State); Cs Brock Hoffman (1, Virginia Tech), Alec Lindstrom (1, Boston College); LB Malik Jefferson (4, Texas); Ss Tyler Coyle (1 Purdue), Sheldrick Redwine (4, Miami), Juanyeh Thomas (1, South Carolina State)

**Micah Parsons**
Photo by Ryan Kang via AP

ry suffered in the playoff loss to the 49ers.

The Cowboys signed veteran Ronald Jones II in free agency for insurance even though he only played 38 offensive snaps in six games last season with the Chiefs. The Cowboys drafted Deuce Vaughn to bring some electricity to the ground game and they do like 2022 rookie Malik Davis, who had 38 carries for 161 yards and a touchdown last season.

**RATING: 7**

## RECEIVERS

The Cowboys tacitly admitted they made a mistake in trading No. 1 receiver Amari Cooper before last season. They never replaced him in the offense and spent the season and offseason looking to add juice to the passing game to help out Pro-Bowl wideout CeeDee Lamb. They acquired Cooks in a trade with the Houston Texans. Cooks caught 57 passes for 699 yards and three touchdowns in 13 games for the Texans last season and still has the speed to take the top off the defense to complement Lamb, who caught 107 passes for 1,359 yards and nine touchdowns in 2022.

The Cowboys need Michael Gallup to bounce back after catching only 39 passes for 424 yards in 14 games. With tight end Dalton Schultz gone, the Cowboys will turn to tight end by committee. Second-round pick Luke Schoonmaker, 2022 fourth-rounder Jake Ferguson and Peyton Hendershot will share the position.

**RATING: 6**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Cowboys have only two definite players on the offensive line heading into 2022:

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

**KEY ADDITION:**
**WR Brandin Cooks**
Cooks was a much-needed addition to the passing game. Other than CeeDee Lamb, the Cowboys had no receivers they could trust. It impacted quarterback's Dak Prescott's play the most. Cooks has thrived everywhere he's been.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**
T Chuma Edoga, CB Stephon Gilmore, RB Ronald Jones II, DE Takk McKinley, LS Trent Sieg, K Tristan Vizcaino

**KEY LOSS:**
**RB Ezekiel Elliott (15/14)***
Elliott was certainly a declining player and not worth the money on the books for 2023. But he did score 12 touchdowns last season and was their best-short yardage back. Who will get the tough yards in 2023?

**OTHER LOSSES:**
**LB Anthony Barr (14/10),** LB Devante Bond (0/0), **CB Anthony Brown (12/12),** WR Noah Brown (16/13), TE Ian Bunting (0/0), T Aviante Collins (2/0), LB Luke Gifford (16/0), WR T.Y. Hilton (3/0), K Brett Maher (17/0), **G Connor McGovern (15/15),** LS Jake McQuaide (4/0), LS Matt Overton (13/0), T Jason Peters (12/1), **TE Dalton Schultz (15/15),** Isaac Taylor-Stuart (0/0), DE Carlos Watkins (12/4)*
**Total games played/started lost: 166/84**

**STARTERS RETURNING**
17: 7 offense, 9 defense, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS

TONY POLLARD

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dak Prescott | 394 | 261 | 2860 | 23 | 15 |
| Cooper Rush | 162 | 94 | 1051 | 5 | 3 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tony Pollard | 193 | 1007 | 5.2 | 9 |
| Ezekiel Elliott | 231 | 876 | 3.8 | 12 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CeeDee Lamb | 107 | 1359 | 12.7 | 9 |
| Dalton Schultz | 57 | 577 | 10.1 | 5 |
| Noah Brown | 43 | 555 | 12.9 | 3 |
| Michael Gallup | 39 | 424 | 10.9 | 4 |

**Kicking:** Maher 50/53 XPs, 29/32 FGs, 137 points
**Tackles:** Wilson 108, Vander Esch 100, Kearse 83
**Sacks:** Parsons 13.5, Armstrong 8.5, Lawrence 6, Fowler 6
**INTs:** Bland 5, Diggs 3, Hooker 3

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 354.9 | 11 |
| Passing Offense | 219.8 | 14 |
| Rushing Offense | 135.2 | 9 |
| Points | 27.5 | 4 |
| Sacked | 27 | 4 |
| 3rd Down % | 45.5 | 5 |

| Defense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Defense | 330.2 | 12 |
| Passing Defense | 200.9 | 8 |
| Rushing Defense | 129.3 | 22 |
| Points Allowed | 20.1 | T-5 |
| INTs | 16 | T-7 |
| Sacks | 54 | T-3 |
| Turnover Diff. | +10 | 2 |

All-Pro right guard Zack Martin and center Tyler Biasdasz. Everything else is in flux as the team works to find a suitable option at left guard. They would like to keep 2022 rookie sensation Tyler Smith at left tackle. But they will look at him at left guard if they have no better options. Veteran Tyron Smith, who moved to right tackle last season, could man that position again. He will compete with Terence Steele, who will also get a look at left guard. Josh Ball will also get a look at guard and so will free agent signee Chuma Edoga and fifth-round pick Asim Richards. The focus is to play the best five.

**RATING: 7**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Micah Parsons is now a full-time member of the Cowboys defensive line which will allow him to do what he does best, hunt quarterbacks. Parsons recorded 26.5 sacks, 56 quarterback hits, 33 tackles for loss and six forced fumbles in two seasons, earning All-Pro honors both seasons, as a multi-faceted linebacker. He will be supplemented at end by Dorance Armstrong, who had a career-high 8.5 sacks last season, and DeMarcus Lawrence and his six sacks from a year ago. This group has solid backups in Dante Fowler and Sam Williams. The Cowboys spent a first-round pick on nose tackle Mazi Smith to help shore up the run defense alongside tackles Osa Odighizuwa, Neville Gallimore and Johnathan Hankins. Stop the run. Earn the right to rush the passer.

**RATING: 8**

## LINEBACKERS

With Parsons at end, the quality of the Cowboys linebacker corps has come into focus. Leighton Vander Esch is back at middle linebacker and will be the signal caller on defense. He was second on the team in tackles last season with 100, despite missing three games. But outside of Vander Esch this unit has youth and bunch of questions. Damone Clark was solid as a rookie last season, but he will need to take his game to another level. Third-round pick DeMarvion Overshown will be counted on to make an early impact. And the team needs the light to finally click on for 2021 fourth-round pick Jabril Cox, who was slow to return from a torn ACL last season and has yet to make an impact.

**RATING: 6**

## SECONDARY

Thanks to the addition of Gilmore in a trade with the Colts, the secondary is easily the best and deepest position on the team. There are no holes and no questions. Gilmore isn't the same player he was when he won Defensive Player of the Year in 2019, but still makes plays and he still gets the job done. The Cowboys are finally comfortable at the cornerback position opposite Pro Bowler Trevon Diggs, who led the NFL in interceptions in 2021 and remains a danger for quarterbacks attempting to throw in his direction. Add in Jourdan Lewis and DaRon Bland in the slot and the Cowboys cover any receiver group in the league. Suffice to say, the safety trio of Donovan Wilson, Jayron Kearse and Malik Hooker might be even better. They are the reason the big nickel is the team's base defense.

**RATING: 9**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Cowboys are solid at punter and kick returner with Bryan Anger and Pro Bowler KaVontae Turpin manning those two positions respectively. They have a new holder in Trent Sieg. But the kicker position remains undetermined and he may not be on the roster until training camp, as was the case last season. Tristan Vizcaino is currently the place holder, but he is unproven and the team is looking for a veteran.

**RATING: 6**

## INTANGIBLES

No team has repeated as NFC East champs since 2003-2004. Is it the Cowboys turn to supplant the Eagles?

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Clarence E. Hill Jr.

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Mazi Smith was the first defensive tackle drafted by the Cowboys in the opening round since Russell Maryland in 1992. He was drafted to shore up the run defense and be the personal answer to the quarterback sneak used successfully by the Eagles. The sneak stopper.

2. Micah Parsons plans to make a full-time move from linebacker to defensive end. No more will he have to focus on multiple positions each week. This will give him more opportunities to wreck the quarterback and possibly win the sack title.

3. Look for this to be Dan Quinn's final season as defensive coordinator. He has taken his name out of the running for jobs the past two seasons. He wants to be a head coach in the right situation. He will either coach elsewhere or replace Mike McCarthy as Cowboys coach.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 13-6**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | TAMPA BAY | 3-19 |
| Sept. 18 | CINCINNATI | 20-17 |
| Sept. 26 | at N.Y. Giants | 23-16 |
| Oct. 2 | WASHINGTON | 25-10 |
| Oct. 9 | at L.A. Rams | 22-10 |
| Oct. 16 | at Philadelphia | 17-26 |
| Oct. 23 | DETROIT | 24-6 |
| Oct. 30 | CHICAGO | 49-29 |
| Nov. 13 | at Green Bay (OT) | 28-31 |
| Nov. 20 | at Minnesota | 40-3 |
| Nov. 24 | N.Y. GIANTS | 28-20 |
| Dec. 4 | INDIANAPOLIS | 54-19 |
| Dec. 11 | HOUSTON | 27-23 |
| Dec. 18 | at Jacksonville (OT) | 34-40 |
| Dec. 24 | PHILADELPHIA | 40-34 |
| Dec. 29 | at Tennessee | 27-13 |
| Jan. 8 | at Washington | 6-26 |
| Jan. 16 | at Tampa Bay (Mon) | 31-14 |
| Jan. 22 | at San Francisco | 12-19 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Central**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | JACKSONVILLE | TBD |
| Aug. 17-21 | at Seattle | TBD |
| Aug. 24-27 | LAS VEGAS | TBD |
| Sept. 10 | at N.Y. Giants | 7:20 |
| Sept. 17 | N.Y. JETS | 3:25 |
| Sept. 24 | at Arizona | 3:25 |
| Oct. 1 | NEW ENGLAND | 3:25 |
| Oct. 8 | at San Francisco | 7:20 |
| Oct. 16 | at L.A. Chargers (Mon) | 7:15 |
| | BYE | |
| Oct. 29 | L.A. RAMS | 12:00 |
| Nov. 5 | at Philadelphia | 3:25 |
| Nov. 12 | N.Y. GIANTS | 3:25 |
| Nov. 19 | at Carolina | 12:00 |
| Nov. 23 | WASHINGTON (Thu) | 3:30 |
| Nov. 30 | SEATTLE (Thu) | 7:15 |
| Dec. 10 | PHILADELPHIA | 7:20 |
| Dec. 17 | at Buffalo | 3:25 |
| Dec. 24 | at Miami | 3:25 |
| Dec. 30 | DETROIT (Sat) | 7:15 |
| TBD | at Washington | TBD |

# NEW YORK GIANTS

## Giants Expect 2022 Progress to Continue

The Giants were supposed to be in a rebuild last season, their first under new general manager Joe Schoen and new head coach Brian Daboll. But no one told Schoen, Daboll and the players and coaches as they finished with a 9-7-1 record, good enough to get them into the 2022 postseason.

Moving forward, the Giants are determined to show last year wasn't a fluke. Schoen and Daboll made their offseason goal all about strengthening glaring areas of weakness on last year's roster — the run defense, the overall team speed and the playmaker talent on offense — to close the gap with the Cowboys and Eagles.

Through a series of shrewd roster moves in free agency and the draft, the Giants appear to have done just that, but lest anyone think the team's brass is sitting around its headquarters patting themselves on the back, Schoen was quick to remind people that the work has only begun.

"You don't win games in April," Schoen said after the draft concluded. "It's about what we do this fall and how we go out there and compete when it matters and how we continue to build this offseason and get bigger, faster, stronger, through our strength program and then how we prepare and execute in August.

"Every year is different, and the team has to gel and build chemistry. We have to stay healthy. There's a lot that goes into it."

**Daniel Jones**
Photo by G. Newman Lowrance via AP

**3**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 10-8-1

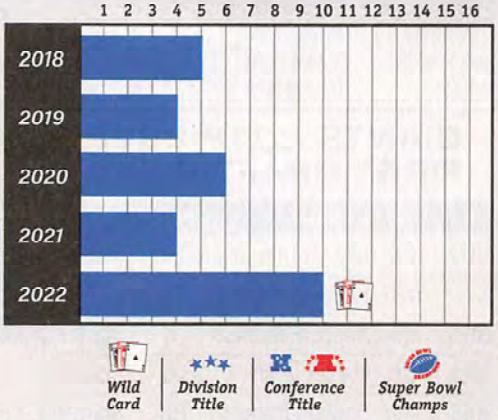
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 1-4-1

**STADIUM:** MetLife Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 82,500

**SURFACE:** FieldTurf Core

**WINS PER YEAR**



## AT A GLANCE

1925 GIANTS DRIVE
EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ 07073
(201) 935-8111
WWW.GIANTS.COM

**TRAINING CAMP:** Quest Diagnostics Training Ctr.
**HEAD COACH:** Brian Daboll
- 2nd season as Giants/NFL head coach
- 10-8-1 overall; 1-1 postseason

**PRESIDENT/CEO:** John K. Mara
**CHAIRMAN/EVP:** Steve Tisch
**SR. VP/GENERAL MANAGER:** Joe Schoen
**ASSISTANT GM:** Brandon Brown
**SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO GM:** Jessie Armstead
**SR. VP FOOTBALL OPERATIONS/STRATEGY:** Kevin Abrams
**SENIOR VP PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Chris Mara
**DIR. PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Tim McDonnell
**DIR. COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Chris Pettit
**SR. PRO PERSONNEL EXEC.:** Ken Sternfeld
**DIR. PRO SCOUTING:** Chris Rossetti

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mike Kafka | Offensive coordinator | 7 | 2 |
| Shea Tierney | Quarterbacks | 9 | 2 |
| Christian Jones | Assistant quarterbacks | 2 | 2 |
| Bobby Johnson | Offensive line | 14 | 2 |
| Chris Smith | Assistant line | 1 | 1 |
| Jeff Nixon | Running backs | 14 | 1 |
| Mike Groh | Receivers | 12 | 2 |
| Andy Bischoff | Tight ends | 11 | 2 |
| Cade Knox | Off. Asst./game manager | 2 | 2 |
| Angela Baker | Offensive assistant | 2 | 2 |
| Christian Daboll | Offensive assistant | 1 | 1 |
| Don Martindale | Defensive coordinator | 19 | 2 |
| Andre Patterson | Defensive line | 20 | 2 |
| Bryan Cox | Assistant line | 13 | 2 |
| Drew Wilkins | Outside linebackers | 14 | 2 |
| John Egorugwu | Inside linebackers | 8 | 2 |
| Jerome Henderson | Defensive backs | 17 | 4 |
| Mike Treier | Safeties | 4 | 4 |
| Kevin Wilkins | Defensive assistant | 2 | 2 |
| Ben Burress | Defensive assistant | 1 | 1 |
| Thomas McGaughey | Special teams coord. | 17 | 9 |
| Anthony Blevins | Asst. special teams | 11 | 4 |
| Stephen Thomas | Asst. special teams | 6 | 1 |
| Craig Fitzgerald | Dir. strength/perf. | 8 | 5 |
| Drew Wilson | Assistant S&C | 3 | 3 |
| Mark Loecher | Assistant S&C | 10 | 2 |
| Sam Coad | Dir. Perf./asst. S&C | 4 | 4 |

## GIANTS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/5 | Kayvon Thibodeaux | LB | Starter |
| 2021 | 1/20 | Kadarius Toney | WR | Chiefs |
| 2020 | 1/4 | Andrew Thomas | T | Starter |
| 2019 | 1/6 | Daniel Jones | QB | Starter |
| 2018 | 1/2 | Saquon Barkley | RB | Starter |

## COACHING

The Giants coaching staff, which last year worked wonders with minimal talent in some positions, returns mostly intact for a second season, the only losses of note being running backs coach DeAndre Smith and assistant offensive line coach Tony Sparano Jr., both of whom joined the Colts staff. The big takeaway is that offensive coordinator Mike Kafka and defensive coordinator Wink Martindale, who were each considered for head coaching positions this past cycle, are back to continue building on what they started last season.

**RATING: 7.5**

## QUARTERBACKS

After an encouraging first season in the new offense, Daniel Jones earned a four-year, $160 million contract that has an out for the Giants after two years if, for some reason, he turns into a pumpkin at the stroke of midnight. The Giants, however, have done all they can to make sure Jones's story has a happy ending, doing so by adding to the receiving corps and the offensive line. Behind Jones is backup Tyrod Taylor, signed through this season. New York is interested in replacing the retired Davis Webb with a developmental prospect still to be determined.

**RATING: 7.5**

## RUNNING BACKS

One way or another, Saquon Barkley will be a Giant in 2023. Beyond that is another story, as Barkley and the Giants were locked in a contract impasse over the running back having been assigned the franchise tag. Barkley turned down a multiyear contract offer worth upwards of $13 million per year. New York added versatile running back Eric Gray out of Oklahoma in the fifth round. Gray could see a sizeable role on the offense if he can grasp the playbook quickly enough.

**RATING: 9**

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

It was the best-case scenario for both the Giants and QB Daniel Jones to move forward with their Meadowlands marriage. However, Jones will need his weapons to step up, if New York is to take the next step into becoming serious contenders. There is an apparent logjam at the slot position, but WR **Wan'Dale Robinson** was chosen 43rd overall with high expectations. A healthy Robinson can provide a movement piece on offense with pre-snap motion, end arounds, bubble screens and offset looks; the type of player the Giants offense has lacked for several years. ... New York knew the blocking capabilities of TE **Daniel Bellinger** when they drafted him a year ago. His catching prowess was a pleasant surprise, as he recorded 20 receptions. Along with the addition of Darren Waller, team brass has done a wonderful job stockpiling depth at the position. ... On defense, coordinator Wink Martindale loves to apply pressure and OLB **Kayvon Thibodeaux** showed signs of becoming a premier pass-rusher; look for a giant step forward in his development. ... Some were surprised with the selection of CB **Cor'Dale Flott** in the third round of the 2022 draft, but the LSU product out-played his draft stock, emerging as a starter by season's end. Yet another player that GM Joe Schoen and head coach Brian Daboll hit on.

## RECEIVERS

The Giants made some additions to their receiving corps, the biggest (no pun intended) being 6-foot-6, 238-pound tight end Darren Waller, acquired via trade with the Raiders, 6-foot, 207-pound receiver Parris Campbell, acquired via free agency from the Colts, and 6-foot, 180-pound rookie Jalin

## ON THE HOT SEAT

DANIEL JONES

The Giants rewarded Jones with a four-year, $160 million contract off one solid season in the new offense. Although they can get out of the deal after two seasons, the team hopes they don't have to go that route. They won't as long as the fifth-year quarterback proves that last season, where he set career bests in completion percentage (67.2) and passing yards (3,205), and a career-low in interceptions (five), wasn't a fluke, especially after receiving a significant upgrade to his weapons. The Giants also need Jones to gravitate more toward playmaker than game manager, a transition that will include him making some longer throws, including those off a second and third read.

Saquon Barkley
Photo by Ray Seebeck-USA TODAY Sports

Hyatt, their third-round draft pick. They will join tight end Daniel Bellinger and receivers Sterling Shepard, Wan'Dale Robinson, Isaiah Hodgins, Darius Slayton, David Sills V and Collin Johnson in competition this summer. Whether there is a true No. 1 receiver in that group remains to be seen, but if nothing else, the Giants added a lot of speed at a position that sorely lacked it last year and could end up seeking to trade a receiver for additional assets in next year's draft.

**RATING: 7.5**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Giants, who have a good young pair of tackles in Andrew Thomas and Evan Neal, added a key missing piece to the unit in center John Michael Schmitz, their second-round pick out of Minnesota. The move was long overdue as quarterback Daniel Jones has had a different starting center every single season he's been in the league, which has necessitated him having to start from scratch in getting on the same page with the guy snapping the ball to him regarding reads and protection calls. The Giants are believed to be eyeing Joshua Ezeudu, last year's third-round pick who had his rookie campaign cut short due to a neck injury, for the starting left-guard spot. Mark Glowinski projects as the starting right guard, and the Giants, who had some issues with depth along the interior offensive line, suddenly have a much stronger-looking unit to protect Jones.

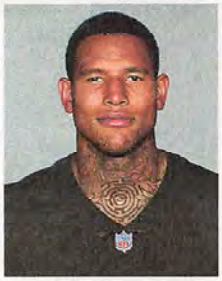
**RATING: 7**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

General manager Joe Schoen put the run defense atop his offseason to-do list, adding newcomers Rakeem Nunez-Roches (Bucs) and A'Shawn Robinson (Rams), who are known for their run-stopping prowess. The hope is that this year when starters Leonard Williams and Dexter Lawrence II need a breather, there won't be that great of a drop-off of production on the field. The Giants are also getting back D.J. Davidson, their fifth-round draft pick last year, who saw his

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

**KEY ADDITION:**



**TE Darren Waller**

Waller is a big-time target capable of drawing defenders in the middle of the field. The hope is that his presence will open things up along the numbers for the receivers.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**

WR Parris Campbell, WR Jamison Crowder, C J.C. Hassenauer, S Bobby McCain, DL Rakeem Nunez-Roches, LB Bobby Okereke, CB Amani Oruwariye, DT A'Shawn Robinson, WR Jeff Smith, TE Tommy Sweeney

**KEY LOSS:**

**DB Julian Love (16/16)***

Love was known as "duct tape" because of his ability to slide into multiple roles on the defense. An every-down starter, his departure left a significant hole in the secondary.

**OTHER LOSSES:**

S Terrell Burgess (1/0), S Landon Collins (6/1), DT Justin Ellis (17/4), **G Jon Feliciano (15/15)**, C/G Nick Gates (10/8), WR Kenny Golladay (12/4), WR Richie James (17/4), S Tony Jefferson (9/1), WR Marcus Johnson (14/7), DT Henry Mondeaux (11/5), CB **Fabian Moreau (15/12), LB Jaylon Smith (13/11).** TE Nick Vannett (6/3), DT Nicholas Williams (8/7)*

**Total games played/started lost: 170/98**

**STARTERS RETURNING**

18: 10 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS

DEXTER LAWRENCE

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daniel Jones | 472 | 317 | 3205 | 15 | 5 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saquon Barkley | 295 | 1312 | 4.5 | 10 |
| Daniel Jones | 120 | 708 | 5.9 | 7 |
| Matt Breida | 54 | 220 | 4.1 | 1 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Darius Slayton | 46 | 724 | 15.7 | 2 |
| Richie James | 57 | 569 | 10.0 | 4 |
| Isaiah Hodgins | 33 | 351 | 10.6 | 4 |
| Saquon Barkley | 57 | 338 | 5.9 | 0 |

**Kicking:** Gano 32/34 XPs, 29/32 FGs, 119 points
**Tackles:** Love 116, Smith 88, Lawrence 68
**Sacks:** Lawrence 7.5, Ojulari 5.5, Thibodeaux 4
**INTs:** Love 2, Belton 2, Williams 1, Collins 1

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 333.9 | 18 |
| Passing Offense | 185.7 | 26 |
| Rushing Offense | 148.2 | 4 |
| Points | 21.5 | T-15 |
| Sacked | 49 | T-27 |
| 3rd Down % | 36.8 | 22 |

| Defense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Defense | 358.2 | 25 |
| Passing Defense | 214.0 | 14 |
| Rushing Defense | 144.2 | 27 |
| Points Allowed | 21.8 | T-17 |
| INTs | 6 | T-31 |
| Sacks | 41 | 13 |
| Turnover Diff. | +3 | 11 |

# GIANTS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 82 | Bellinger, Daniel (TE) | 6-6 | 255 | 2 | San Diego State | 12/11/1/4 | D4 22 | D4 NYG 22 | Solid rookie performer last year who will look to build off that campaign. |
| 83 | Cager, Lawrence (TE) | 6-5 | 220 | 3 | Georgia | 7/4/1/7 | FA 22 | CFA NYJ 20 | Showed promise last season, but is still learning the tight-end position. |
| **0** | **Campbell, Parris** | **6-1** | **208** | **4** | **Ohio State** | **17/16** | **UFA,IND 23** | **D2 IND 19** | **Brings speed to Giants' plans to try more deep shots down the field.** |
| 80 | *Crowder, Jamison | 5-9 | 177 | 9 | Duke | 4/0/0/0 | UFA,BUFF 23 | D4 WSH 15 | Veteran slot receiver who could be insurance for the recovering Shepard and Robinson. |
| 18 | Hodgins, Isaiah | 6-3 | 201 | 3 | Oregon State | 11/6/0/1 | W,BUFF 22 | D6 BUFF 20 | Biggest surprise on team in production last season despite joining roster mid-year. |
| **84** | **Hyatt, Jalin** | **6-0** | **185** | **R** | **Tennessee** | **0/0** | **D3 23** | **D3 NYG 23** | **Electric rookie wideout can take the top off a defense.** |
| 15 | *Johnson, Collin | 6-6 | 220 | 4 | Texas | 0/0/0/0 | W, JAX 21 | D5 JAX 20 | Tall receiver hopes to return from an Achilles injury suffered last year. |
| 88 | Mickens, Jaydon | 5-11 | 170 | 5 | Washington | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA OAK 16 | Training-camp depth, who will look to earn a spot on the practice squad. |
| 85 | Myarick, Chris (TE) | 6-5 | 261 | 3 | Temple | 16/8/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA MIA 19 | Has fullback experience, which could be the edge in competition for the third TE spot. |
| 17 | *Robinson, Wan'Dale | 5-8 | 185 | 2 | Kentucky | 6/3/0/4 | D2 22 | D2 NYG 22 | Recovering from torn ACL; may not be ready for the start of the new season. |
| 3 | *Shepard, Sterling | 5-10 | 196 | 8 | Oklahoma | 3/2/0/0 | D2 16 | D2 NYG 16 | Attempting yet another return from a significant injury (ACL). |
| 13 | Sills V, David | 6-3 | 211 | 2 | West Virginia | 9/5/1/5 | FA 23 | CFA BUFF 19 | Couldn't stick on roster last year and could be on outside looking this year. |
| **86** | **Slayton, Darius** | **6-1** | **194** | **5** | **Auburn** | **16/11/0/1** | **D5 19** | **D5 NYG 19** | **Underrated deep speedster who needs to get his concentration and drops under control.** |
| 19 | *Smith, Jeff | 6-1 | 195 | 4 | Boston College | 11/0/0/4 | FA 23 | CFA NYJ 19 | Could prove more valuable as a gunner on special teams. |
| 89 | Sweeney, Tommy (TE) | 6-5 | 260 | 5 | Boston College | 5/0/0/1 | UFA, BUFF 23 | D7 BUFF 19 | Blocking tight-end candidate will compete for a roster spot. |
| **12** | **Waller, Darren (TE)** | **6-6** | **238** | **7** | **Georgia Tech** | **9/6/0/3** | **T,LV 23** | **D6 BLT 15** | **Big-time playmaker who can draw defenders in, opening things up on the outside.** |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 77 | Anderson, Jack (G) | 6-4 | 314 | 3 | Texas Tech | 12/2/1/4 | W,PHA 22 | D7 BUFF 21 | Offers interior offensive line depth, but will need to compete for a spot. |
| 68 | *Bredeson, Ben (G) | 6-5 | 315 | 4 | Michigan | 11/8/0/0 | T,BLT 21 | D4 BLT 20 | Will compete for left-guard job after holding it down most of last year. |
| 70 | Cunningham, Korey (T) | 6-6 | 311 | 5 | Cincinnati | 1/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D7 ARIZ 18 | Big veteran tackle who will try to earn the primary backup role. |
| 67 | Davis, Wyatt (G) | 6-4 | 315 | 3 | Ohio State | 3/0/5/9 | W,ARIZ 22 | D3 MINN 21 | Could be on bubble given lack of versatility. |
| **75** | ***Ezeudu, Joshua (LG)** | **6-4** | **320** | **2** | **North Carolina** | **10/2/0/3** | **D3 22** | **D3 NYG 22** | **Believed to be the favorite to take the left-guard role.** |
| **64** | **Glowinski, Mark (RG)** | **6-4** | **310** | **9** | **West Virginia** | **16/16/1/0** | **UFA,IND 22** | **D4 SEA 15** | **Should be back at right guard since he has guaranteed money owed.** |
| 62 | Hamilton, Devery (T) | 6-6 | 311 | 2 | Duke | 9/0/0/1 | FA 23 | CFA LV 21 | Longshot to make 53-man roster, but could find spot on practice squad. |
| 63 | Hassenauer, J.C. (C) | 6-2 | 295 | 4 | Alabama | 17/0 | FA 23 | CFA ATL 18 | Will provide depth behind projected starter John Michael Schmitz. |
| 66 | *Lemieux, Shane (G) | 6-4 | 310 | 4 | Oregon | 1/1/0/5 | D5 20 | D5 NYG 20 | May have lost starting job after two injury-filled seasons. |
| 60 | *McKethan, Marcus (G/T) | 6-7 | 335 | 2 | North Carolina | 0/0/0/0 | D5 22 | D5 NYG 22 | Is returning from a season-ending knee injury. |
| **73** | **Neal, Evan (RT)** | **6-7** | **350** | **2** | **Alabama** | **13/13/0/4** | **D1 22** | **D1 NYG 22** | **Is looking to bounce back from a shaky rookie campaign.** |
| 74 | Peart, Matt (T) | 6-7 | 318 | 4 | Connecticut | 9/0/0/0 | D3 20 | D3 NYG 20 | One-time third-round draft pick will need to fight hard for a roster spot. |
| 79 | Phillips, Tyre (G) | 6-5 | 344 | 4 | Mississippi State | 12/6/2/3 | W,BLT 22 | D3 BLT 20 | Versatility kept him around on the roster and gives him a leg up in competition. |
| **61** | **Schmitz Jr., John Michael (C)** | **6-4** | **320** | **R** | **Minnesota** | **0/0** | **D2 23** | **D2 NYG 23** | **Giants finally got a pure center who will hopefully be the long-term starter.** |
| **78** | **Thomas, Andrew (LT)** | **6-5** | **315** | **3** | **Georgia** | **16/16/0/1** | **D1 20** | **D1 NYG 20** | **Has developed into one of the best left tackles in the game.** |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **26** | **Barkley, Saquon** | **6-0** | **232** | **5** | **Penn State** | **16/16/0/1** | **D1 18** | **D1 NYG 18** | **Locked in contract impasse with team after setting new personal best in rushing yards.** |
| 31 | Breida, Matt | 5-10 | 195 | 7 | Georgia Southern | 17/1 | UFA,BUFF 22 | CFA SF 17 | Solid, underrated backup returns for another tour of duty. |
| 23 | Brightwell, Gary | 6-1 | 218 | 3 | Arizona | 17/0 | D6 21 | D6 NYG 21 | Earned some late-season snaps last year when not returning kickoffs. |
| 20 | Gray, Eric | 5-10 | 211 | R | Oklahoma | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 NYG 23 | Can do everything a running back needs to do; just needs to learn the playbook. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **8** | **Jones, Daniel** | **6-5** | **230** | **5** | **Duke** | **16/16/1/0** | **D1 19** | **D1 NYG 19** | **Locked in as the starter for at least the next two seasons after a solid 2022 season.** |
| 2 | Taylor, Tyrod | 6-1 | 217 | 13 | Virginia Tech | 3/0/13/1 | UFA,HOUS 22 | D6 BLT 11 | Will continue as the No 2 quarterback in this, the final year of his contract. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 90 | Anderson, Ryder (E) | 6-6 | 276 | 2 | Indiana | 7/2/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA NYG 22 | Underrated defender who flashed last season. |
| 91 | Butler, Vernon (T) | 6-4 | 325 | 6 | Louisiana Tech | 1/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D1 CARO 16 | Summer camp depth piece with practice-squad potential. |
| 98 | *Davidson, D.J. (T) | 6-5 | 325 | 2 | Arizona State | 5/0/0/0 | D5 22 | D5 NYG 22 | Is returning from a torn ACL and is not a lock for a roster spot. |
| **97** | **Lawrence II, Dexter (NT)** | **6-4** | **342** | **5** | **Clemson** | **16/16/0/1** | **D1 19** | **D1 NYG 19** | **Rising star who led team in sacks last season.** |
| 93 | Nunez-Roches, Rakeem (NT) | 6-2 | 307 | 9 | Southern Mississippi | 17/10 | UFA,TB 23 | D7 KC 15 | Run-stuffing defender who doesn't offer much in pass rushing. |
| 95 | Riley, Jordon (T) | 6-5 | 325 | R | Oregon | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 NYG 23 | Raw draft prospect will need a year on the practice squad. |
| **54** | ***Robinson, A'Shawn (T)** | **6-4** | **330** | **8** | **Alabama** | **10/10/0/0** | **UFA,LAR 23** | **D2 DET 16** | **Big-bodied run-stuffer who can take on multiple blocks.** |
| **99** | **Williams, Leonard (E)** | **6-5** | **302** | **9** | **Southern Cal** | **12/12/0/5** | **T,NYJ 19** | **D1 NYJ 15** | **Every-down defender who was bothered by injuries last season.** |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 43 | *Beavers, Darrian (I) | 6-4 | 255 | 2 | Cincinnati | 0/0/0/0 | D6 22 | D6 NYG 22 | Impressive rookie returning from a torn ACL could end up starting in base defense. |
| 47 | Brown, Cam (I) | 6-5 | 233 | 4 | Penn State | 17/0 | D6 20 | D6 NYG 20 | Core special teamer who can play snaps on the inside and the outside. |
| 52 | Coughlin, Carter (I) | 6-3 | 236 | 4 | Minnesota | 17/0 | D7 20 | D7 NYG 20 | Projected to compete with Micah McFadden for final spot at ILB. |
| **57** | **Davis, Jarrad (I)** | **6-1** | **245** | **5** | **Florida** | **4/1/0/1** | **FA 22** | **D1 DET 17** | **Veteran defender whom Giants like for base defense.** |
| 49 | Fox, Tomon (O) | 6-3 | 253 | 2 | North Carolina | 16/1/0/1 | CFA 22 | CFA NYG 22 | Intriguing young player capable of giving Giants some pass-rush snaps. |
| 41 | McFadden, Micah (I) | 6-2 | 232 | 2 | Indiana | 17/7 | D5 22 | D5 NYG 22 | Returning draft pick who may have to defend roster spot after losing starting role. |
| **51** | **Ojulari, Azeez (O)** | **6-3** | **240** | **3** | **Georgia** | **7/5/0/5** | **D2 21** | **D2 NYG 21** | **Solid pass rusher who needs to stay out of the trainer's room.** |
| **58** | **Okereke, Bobby (I)** | **6-2** | **235** | **5** | **Stanford** | **17/16** | **UFA,IND 23** | **D3 IND 19** | **Three-down linebacker should help boost the run defense.** |
| 94 | *Smith, Elerson (O) | 6-7 | 245 | 3 | Northern Iowa | 5/0/0/1 | D4 21 | D4 NYG 21 | Has been unable to stay on the field for two seasons. |
| **5** | **Thibodeaux, Kayvon (O)** | **6-5** | **258** | **2** | **Oregon** | **14/14/1/2** | **D1 22** | **D1 NYG 22** | **Poised to take big leap forward as pass rusher in Year 2 of NFL career.** |
| 55 | Ward, Jihad (O) | 6-5 | 287 | 8 | Illinois | 17/11 | UFA,JAX 22 | D2 OAK 16 | Versatile defender who can play with hand in the dirt or standing up. |
| 53 | Ximines, Oshane (O) | 6-4 | 254 | 4 | Old Dominion | 15/4/0/2 | FA 23 | D3 NYG 19 | Saw his snaps decrease last year, but he knows the defense. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **36** | **Banks, Deonte (CB)** | **6-2** | **205** | **R** | **Maryland** | **0/0** | **D1 23** | **D1 NYG 23** | **First-round pick; can play any scheme and projects as a starter.** |
| 24 | Belton, Dane (S) | 6-1 | 190 | 2 | Iowa State | 15/5/0/2 | D4 22 | D4 NYG 22 | Promising young safety who has a role in sub-packages. |
| 28 | Flott, Cor'Dale (CB) | 6-2 | 175 | 2 | Louisiana State | 11/6/1/5 | D3 22 | D3 NYG 22 | Draft pick last year will look to carve out a niche role on defense. |
| 38 | Gilbert, Zyon (CB) | 6-0 | 193 | 1 | Florida Atlantic | 3/1/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA NYG 22 | Practice squadder hoping to earn a spot on the 53-man roster. |
| 37 | Hawkins III, Tre (CB) | 6-3 | 195 | R | Old Dominion | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 NYG 23 | Perimeter cornerback who is a developmental prospect. |
| 30 | Holmes, Darnay (CB) | 5-10 | 195 | 4 | UCLA | 15/2/1/1 | FA 22 | D4 NYG 20 | Slot cornerback will again try to defend his starting job. |
| **22** | **Jackson, Adoree' (CB)** | **5-11** | **185** | **7** | **Southern Cal** | **10/10/0/7** | **FA 21** | **D1 TENN 17** | **Returning projected starter who needs to start making more big plays.** |
| **21** | **McCain, Bobby (S)** | **5-9** | **196** | **9** | **Memphis** | **17/16** | **FA 23** | **D5 MIA 15** | **Veteran safety provides a stop-gap solution following the Julian Love departure.** |
| 44 | McCloud, Nick (CB) | 6-0 | 193 | 3 | Notre Dame | 14/8/0/3 | W, BUFF 22 | CFA BUFF 21 | Intriguing defensive back who held up well when pressed into action last year. |
| **29** | **McKinney, Xavier (S)** | **6-0** | **201** | **4** | **Alabama** | **9/9/1/0** | **D2 20** | **D2 NYG 20** | **Defensive leader recovering from a serious hand injury.** |
| 20 | Oruwariye, Amani (CB) | 6-2 | 202 | 5 | Penn State | 14/5/0/3 | UFA,DET 23 | D5 DET 19 | Reclamation project who hopes to benefit from a fresh start. |
| 31 | Owens, Gervarrius (S) | 6-0 | 200 | R | Houston | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 NYG 23 | Versatile seventh-rounder who can give snaps at corner and safety. |
| 27 | Pinnock, Jason (CB) | 6-0 | 200 | 3 | Pittsburgh | 14/6/0/3 | W, NYJ 22 | D5 NYJ 21 | Versatile defensive back who can give Giants snaps at safety and cornerback. |
| 33 | *Robinson, Aaron (CB) | 6-1 | 193 | 3 | Central Florida | 2/2/0/2 | D3 21 | D3 NYG 21 | Incumbent starter on the outside who needs to stay healthy. |
| 25 | Williams, Rodarius (CB) | 6-0 | 195 | 3 | Oklahoma State | 3/1/1/4 | D6 21 | D6 NYG 21 | Fell out of favor last year and appears to be an early bubble candidate. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Gano, Graham (K) | 6-2 | 202 | 13 | Florida State | 17/0 | FA 20 | CFA BLT 09 | Reliable on field goals; needs to bounce back from slight drop-off on kickoffs. |
| 6 | Gillan, Jamie (P) | 6-1 | 207 | 5 | Arkansas-Pine Bluff | 17/0 | FA 22 | CFA CLV 19 | Battled consistency issues last year, but should benefit from better gunners. |
| 59 | Kreiter, Casey (LS) | 6-1 | 250 | 7 | Iowa | 17/0 | FA 21 | CFA DALL 14 | Long snapper returns for another year to complete the kicking battery. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Bryce Ford-Wheaton (West Virginia), Kalil Pimpleton (1, Central Michigan), Makai Polk (1, Mississippi State); TEs Ryan Jones (East Carolina), Dre Miller (1, Maine); RB Jashaun Corbin (1, Florida State); QB Tommy DeVito (Illinois); DEs Habakkuk (Pittsburgh); LBs Troy Brown (Mississippi), Dyontae Johnson (Toledo); CBs Gemon Green (Michigan), Leonard Johnson (Duke); S Alex Cook (Washington); Trenton Thompson (1, San Diego State); LS Cameron Lyons (North Carolina-Charlotte)

rookie campaign end early due to a torn ACL, though with the additions of Nunez-Roches and Robinson there might not be room for him on the roster. They also have Ryder Anderson, a very underrated player whom the team signed as an undrafted free agent last year, and defensive lineman Jordon Riley (Oregon), drafted in the seventh round to round out the depth. Riley, however, appears more of a project given his relatively slim resume' of production.

**RATING: 7**

## LINEBACKERS

The league's 27th-ranked run defense (144.2 yards/game) received a significant upgrade in the form of former Colts inside linebacker Bobby Okereke, acquired via free agency. The Giants hope that Okereke, veteran Jarrad Davis, and second-year player Darrian Beavers (recovering from a torn ACL) do a far better job of filling run fits and patrolling the second level where all too often the Giants were burned. Although coverage isn't necessarily Okereke's strength, he still finished with a better NFL coverage rating (103.0) than any of the Giants' linebackers last season. He posted four pass breakups; four more than the team's inside linebackers combined in 2022. The Giants didn't add to this position in the draft, the likely thinking being they'll stage a competition for the fourth spot between Carter Coughlin, Micah McFadden and Cam Brown.

**RATING: 6.5**

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. The Giants ranked dead last in the league last season in explosive passing plays of 20-plus yards (28). They hope that changes after adding playmakers like tight end Darren Waller and receiver Parris Campbell to quarterback Daniel Jones's arsenal.

2. The Giants had an average 1.06 percent interception rate last season, 31st in the league. They would no doubt like to get more takeaways in 2023, particularly from the defense's back end, which finished with six interceptions, one of which was by a cornerback (Rodarius Williams).

3. The Giants' pass rush will look to finish off more sacks this coming season. Last year, their five edge rushers combined to finish with 15.5 sacks; a half-sack less than Eagles edge rusher Haason Reddick recorded all by his lonesome.

## SECONDARY

The Giants waited until the draft to address arguably one of their weakest units from last year's defense, which also happens to be a unit facing a major overhaul sooner than later. Adoree' Jackson is currently set to enter the final year of his contract. While he was arguably the best cornerback the team had last year when he was healthy, he also didn't make many game-changing plays during his time with the Giants and is unlikely to be a long-term answer for the club. Meanwhile, the Giants added more speed in the form of first-round draft pick Deonte Banks out of Maryland, a tall, physical press cornerback capable of excelling in any scheme, and a player for whom they traded up to acquire. At the slot cornerback spot, figure Aaron Robinson, their third-round pick in 2021, will compete with incumbent Darnay Holmes, their fourth-round pick in 2020. The Giants also signed former Lions starter Amani Oruwariye, who, at 6-foot-2 and 205 pounds, is another tallish press-man cornerback with length. At safety, the Giants hope Xavier McKinney's injured left hand is fully functional after an intense offseason of rehab. With Julian Love having departed via free agency, veteran Bobby McCain currently projects as the starter alongside McKinney. The team also has some good young talent in Jason Pinnock, Trenton Thompson, Dane Belton, sixth-rounder Tre Hawkins and seventh-rounder Gervarrius Owens (Houston).

**RATING: 7**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Giants have their core kicking battery — punter Jamie Gillan, kicker Graham Gano and long snapper Casey Kreiter — back for another season. However, they will need much better production from their kickoff and punt-coverage units, which finished 26th and 22nd last year, respectively. The Giants will also hold summer auditions for a new punt returner and new kickoff returner after finishing 29th in punt returns and 23rd in kickoff returns.

**RATING: 6**

## INTANGIBLES

The one category the Giants seem to always finish in the top 10 league-wide is the one they've been trying to figure out how to avoid for years now: injuries. According to ManGamesLost.com, the Giants were the sixth-most injured team last year regarding players who missed practices and games. The hope is that with the new turf installed this offseason at MetLife Stadium, some of the injury issues will go away.

**RATING: Minus-1**

— Patricia Traina

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 10-8-1**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | at Tennessee | 21-20 |
| Sept. 18 | CAROLINA | 19-16 |
| Sept. 26 | DALLAS | 16-23 |
| Oct. 2 | CHICAGO | 20-12 |
| Oct. 9 | at Green Bay | 27-22 |
| Oct. 16 | BALTIMORE | 24-20 |
| Oct. 23 | at Jacksonville | 23-17 |
| Oct. 30 | at Seattle | 13-27 |
| Nov. 13 | HOUSTON | 24-16 |
| Nov. 20 | DETROIT | 18-31 |
| Nov. 24 | at Dallas | 20-28 |
| Dec. 4 | WASHINGTON (OT) | 20-20 |
| Dec. 11 | PHILADELPHIA | 22-48 |
| Dec. 18 | at Washington | 20-12 |
| Dec. 24 | at Minnesota | 24-27 |
| Jan. 1 | INDIANAPOLIS | 38-10 |
| Jan. 8 | at Philadelphia | 16-22 |
| Jan. 15 | at Minnesota | 31-24 |
| Jan. 21 | at Philadelphia (Sat) | 7-38 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Eastern**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | at Detroit | TBD |
| Aug. 17-21 | CAROLINA | TBD |
| Aug. 24-27 | N.Y. JETS | TBD |
| Sept. 10 | DALLAS | 8:20 |
| Sept. 17 | at Arizona | 4:05 |
| Sept. 21 | at San Francisco (Thu) | 8:15 |
| Oct. 2 | SEATTLE (Mon) | 8:15 |
| Oct. 8 | at Miami | 1:00 |
| Oct. 15 | at Buffalo | 8:20 |
| Oct. 22 | WASHINGTON | 1:00 |
| Oct. 29 | N.Y. JETS | 1:00 |
| Nov. 5 | at Las Vegas | 4:25 |
| Nov. 12 | at Dallas | 4:25 |
| Nov. 19 | at Washington | 1:00 |
| Nov. 26 | NEW ENGLAND | 1:00 |
| | BYE | |
| Dec. 11 | GREEN BAY (Mon) | 8:15 |
| Dec. 17 | at New Orleans | 1:00 |
| Dec. 25 | at Philadelphia (Mon) | 4:30 |
| Dec. 31 | L.A. RAMS | 1:00 |
| TBD | PHILADELPHIA | TBD |

# PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

## Eagles Search for Rare Super Bowl Return

History hasn't been kind to Super Bowl runners-up in the salary-cap era. Since the advent of the cap in 1994, only one team — the 2018 New England Patriots — has managed to make it back to the Super Bowl the year after losing.

The Eagles, who lost a three-point heartbreaker to the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LVII in February, hope to buck those grim odds.

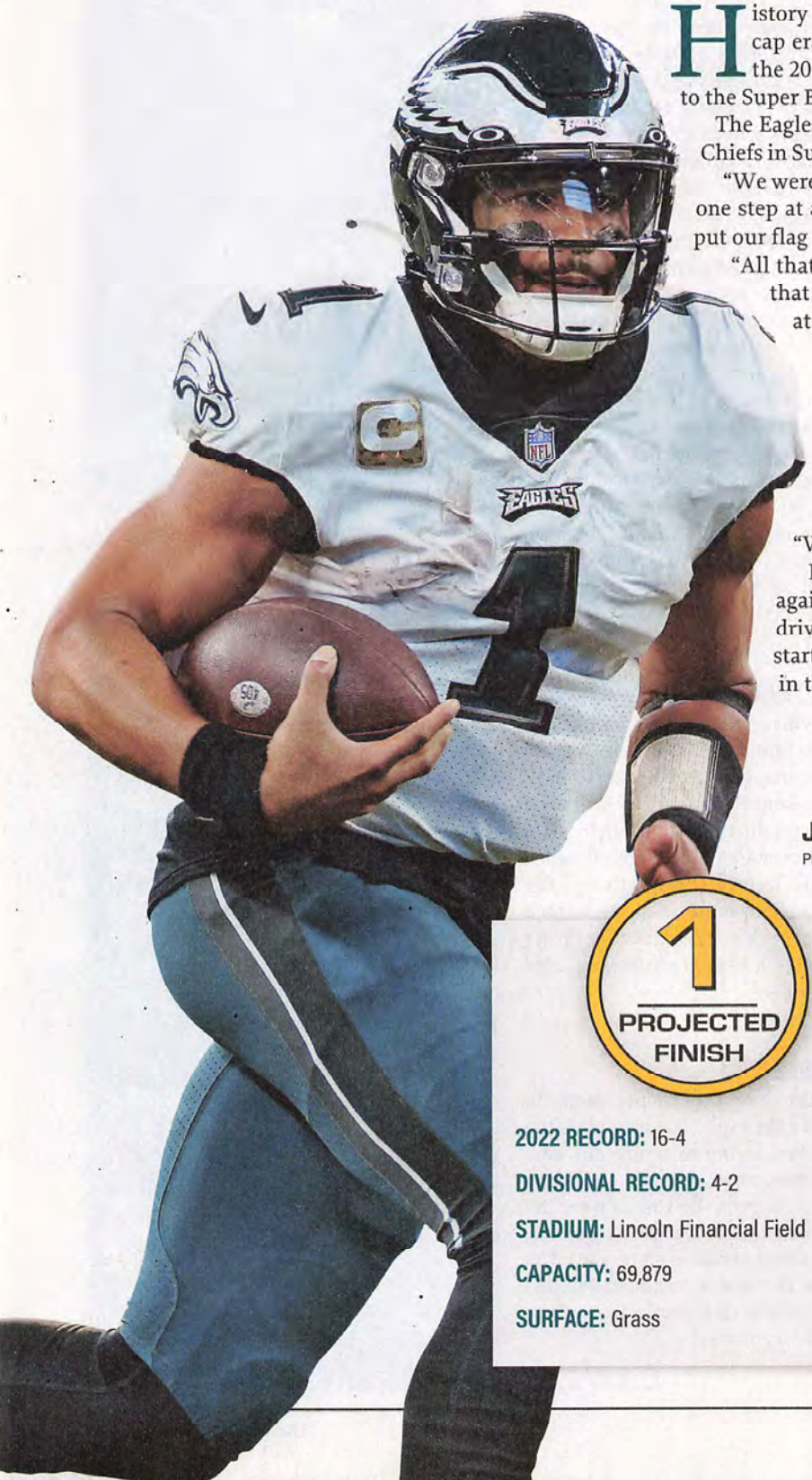
"We were so close," Eagles head coach Nick Sirianni said. "We took one step at a time and then we slipped right before we were able to put our flag at the top of the mountain.

"All that does is make you more determined and driven to make that climb again and get back to the top and hopefully stand at the top."

The Eagles certainly have the talent to get back there. Their offense, led by quarterback Jalen Hurts, is one of the most explosive in the league. Their defense lost five starters in free agency, but general manager Howie Roseman has done a masterful job of finding replacements.

"We have to take it one day at a time," Roseman said. "We have to continue to do the things we think are right."

Hurts is the straw that stirs the Eagles' drink and will once again be the key to the team's success in this quarterback-driven league. In just his second full season as the team's starter, he improved by leaps and bounds and finished second in the league MVP voting.



**Jalen Hurts**
Photo by Joe Robbins

**1**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 16-4

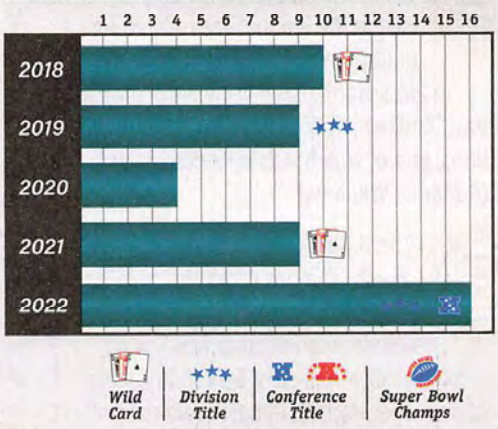
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 4-2

**STADIUM:** Lincoln Financial Field

**CAPACITY:** 69,879

**SURFACE:** Grass

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

**NOVACARE COMPLEX**
**ONE NOVACARE WAY**
**PHILADELPHIA, PA 19145**
**(215) 463-2500**
**WWW.PHILADELPHIAEAGLES.COM**

**TRAINING CAMP:** NovaCare Complex; Philadelphia, Pa.
**HEAD COACH:** Nick Sirianni
- 3rd season as Eagles/NFL head coach
- 25-13 overall; 2-2 postseason

**CHAIRMAN/CEO:** Jeffrey Lurie
**PRESIDENT:** Don Smolenski
**EVP/GM:** Howie Roseman
**ASST GM:** Joe Ferrari, Aled Halaby
**SR. PERSONNEL DIR./ADVISORS TO GM:** Dave Caldwell, Matt Russell
**DIRECTORS PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Charles Walls, Alan Wolking
**DIRECTOR SCOUTING:** Brandon Hunt
**SR. DIR. COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Anthony Patch
**DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:** Max Grude

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Brian Johnson | Offensive coordinator | 3 | 3 |
| Marcus Brady | Sr. offensive assistant | 6 | 1 |
| Alex Tanney | Quarterbacks | 3 | 3 |
| Kevin Patullo | #Passing game coordinator | 14 | 3 |
| Jeff Stoutland | @Offensive line | 11 | 11 |
| Roy Istvan | Assistant line | 5 | 5 |
| Jemal Singleton | *Running backs | 8 | 3 |
| Aaron Moorehead | Receivers | 4 | 4 |
| Jason Michael | Tight ends | 18 | 3 |
| T.J. Paganetti | Run game spec./asst. TEs | 9 | 9 |
| Eric Dickerson | Off. quality control | 3 | 3 |
| Sean Desai | Defensive coordinator | 11 | 1 |
| Matt Patricia | Sr. defensive assistant | 20 | 1 |
| Tracy Rocker | Defensive line | 6 | 3 |
| Jeremiah Washburn | Defensive ends/OLB | 22 | 5 |
| D.J. Eliot | Linebackers | 1 | 1 |
| Tyler Scudder | Asst. linebackers | 3 | 3 |
| D.K. McDonald | Defensive backs | 3 | 3 |
| Taver Johnson | Asst. defensive backs | 5 | 1 |
| Ronell Williams | Nickel cornerbacks | 5 | 1 |
| Mike DiAngelo | Def. quality control | 1 | 1 |
| Michael Clay | Special teams coord. | 10 | 5 |
| Joe Pannunzio | Asst. special teams | 7 | 7 |
| Tyler Brown | Spec. teams quality control | 3 | 3 |
| Ted Rath | VP/Player performance | 15 | 4 |
| Fernando Noriega | Head S&C | 8 | 3 |
| Edward Grayer | Assoc. S&C | 7 | 7 |
| Dustin Woods | Assoc. S&C | 7 | 3 |
| Ben Wagner | Asst. S&C | 11 | 11 |

#Associate head coach *Assistant head coach
@Run game coordinator

## EAGLES 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/13 | Jordan Davis | DT | Backup |
| 2021 | 1/10 | DeVonta Smith | WR | Starter |
| 2020 | 1/21 | Jalen Reagor | WR | Vikings |
| 2019 | 1/22 | Andre Dillard | T | Titans |
| 2018 | 2/49 | Dallas Goedert | TE | Starter |

## COACHING

Nick Sirianni took over an Eagles team that won only four games in 2020 and has guided them to the playoffs in each of his first two years, including last season's run to the Super Bowl. Success comes with a price, though. He lost his offensive and defensive coordinators — Shane Steichen and Jonathan Gannon — to head-coaching jobs in the offseason, but replaced them with capable people — Brian Johnson and Sean Desai. Johnson was the team's quarterbacks coach the last two years and has been instrumental in Jalen Hurts' development. Jeff Stoutland, who has been with the team since 2013, is one of the top offensive line coaches in the NFL.

**RATING: 8**

## QUARTERBACKS

In just his third year in the league, Hurts has quickly developed into one of the league's top quarterbacks. He had the league's fourth-best passer rating (101.5), had only six interceptions and was a major force as a runner, finishing third in the league in rushing first downs with 67. Hurts' fullback body has helped make him nearly unstoppable on quarterback sneaks. He converted a league-high 28 of 31 of them last season. Hurts displayed night-and-day improvement in his decision-making in 2022. Marcus Mariota will replace Gardner Minshew as Hurts' backup. With 74 career starts, including 13 last year with Atlanta, he's got plenty of experience, and like Hurts, is a dual-threat player. The Eagles added a developmental quarterback in the draft, taking Stanford's Tanner McKee in the sixth round.

**RATING: 9**

## RUNNING BACKS

Miles Sanders finished fifth in the league in rushing last year with 1,269 yards. But the Eagles haven't given a second contract to a back since LeSean McCoy, and let Sanders walk when he became a free agent in the offseason. They like the versatility that 2021 fifth-rounder Kenneth Gainwell brings to the offense. He averaged 4.5 yards per carry last season and led the team in rushing in the postseason, and is a better receiving threat than Sanders. The Eagles also signed former Seahawk Rashaad Penny and acquired D'Andre Swift from the Lions. Penny is a talented runner with a 5.7 yard-per-carry career average, but hasn't been able to stay healthy. Swift, who is entering the final year of his rookie contract, averaged 5.5 yards per carry and 8.1 yards per reception last year with the Lions. Boston Scott is a reliable backup.

**RATING: 7.5**

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

In Philadelphia, GM Howie Roseman has constructed a roster built to contend now, with vital pieces waiting in the wings to step into the voids created by the offseason turnover. A key loss was G Isaac Seumalo, who defected to the Steelers. Next man up to assume the position is **Cam Jurgens**, who was groomed to be the eventual successor to C Jason Kelce, but was cross-trained at guard under line coach Jeff Stoutland. Jurgens owns tremendous athleticism and pulling ability. ... The Eagles traded up in the draft for DT **Jordan Davis**, but the rookie struggled with conditioning, leading to the midseason signings of Linval Joseph and Ndamukong Suh. This season, Davis is expected to be an important cog in the middle of the defense. ... His former Georgia teammate, LB **Nakobe Dean**, is also in line to start with the losses of TJ Edwards (Bears) and Kyzir White (Cardinals). Dean was a special-teams standout and has been praised by the coaching staff for his cerebral awareness. ... On the back end, undrafted SS **Reed Blankenship** played admirably in spot duties when called upon. While he encountered his fair share of struggles, his heat-seeking ball-hawk mentality is hard to ignore.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

**JORDAN DAVIS**

Davis's first season with the Eagles wasn't exactly a disappointment, but it wasn't an overwhelming success either. The Eagles gave up four picks to trade up two spots in the first round of the 2022 draft and take the freakishly athletic 6-6, 340-pound defensive tackle out of Georgia. Early on, he did a solid job in the middle against the run on first and second down. But then he suffered a high-ankle sprain, missed three games and never quite returned to his immovable pre-injury form and the Eagles finished 24th in opponent rush average. Davis played only 224 snaps last season. Given his athleticism — he ran a 4.78 at the Scouting Combine — the Eagles are hoping he can become more than just a run-stopping tackle.

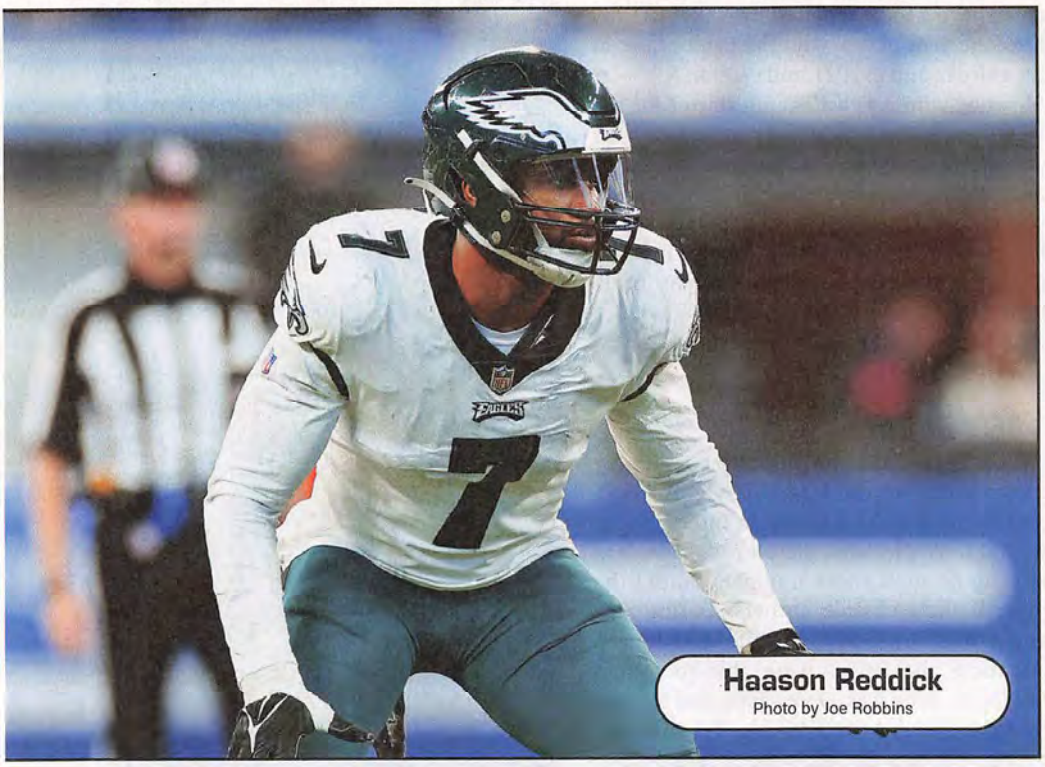
# EAGLES PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| | Arnold, Dan (TE) | 6-6 | 240 | 7 | Wisconsin-Platteville | 17/0 | FA 23 | CFA NORL 17 | Had a career-high 35 catches in 2021 with Carolina and Jacksonville. |
| **11** | **Brown, A.J.** | **6-1** | **226** | **5** | **Mississippi** | **17/16** | **T,TENN 22** | **D2 TENN 19** | **The chemistry he had with Jalen Hurts last season was second to none.** |
| 81 | Calcaterra, Grant (TE) | 6-4 | 240 | 2 | Southern Methodist | 15/2/0/2 | D6 22 | D6 PHA 22 | Excellent pass-catching TE who just needs better blocking to earn more playing time. |
| 85 | Cleveland, Tyrie | 6-2 | 205 | 4 | Florida | 6/0/0/3 | FA 23 | D7 DEN 20 | A big-body WR who caught only eight passes in three seasons with the Broncos. |
| 18 | Covey, Britain | 5-8 | 173 | 2 | Utah | 17/0 | FA 22 | CFA PHA 22 | Played only 19 offensive snaps in '22; earned keep as team's primary punt returner. |
| **88** | **Goedert, Dallas (TE)** | **6-5** | **256** | **6** | **South Dakota State** | **12/12/0/0** | **D2 18** | **D2 PHA 18** | **Over the last two years, 77 percent of his receptions have produced first downs.** |
| 80 | *Jackson, Tyree (TE) | 6-7 | 249 | 3 | Buffalo | 5/0/0/0 | FA 21 | CFA BUFF 19 | Converted QB, tore ACL late in '21 season; played only 34 offensive snaps in '22. |
| 47 | Keene, Dalton (TE) | 6-4 | 251 | 3 | Virginia Tech | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D3 NE 20 | Former pick of New England; had practice-squad stints with Eagles and Broncos in '22. |
| **6** | **Smith, DeVonta** | **6-0** | **170** | **3** | **Alabama** | **17/17** | **D1 21** | **D1 PHA 21** | **Had four 100-yard performances in Eagles' last six regular-season games.** |
| 89 | Stoll, Jack (TE) | 6-4 | 247 | 3 | Nebraska | 17/11 | CFA 21 | CFA PHA 21 | Will compete with Calcaterra for the backup TE job. |
| 84 | Ward Jr., Greg | 5-11 | 190 | 4 | Houston | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA PHA 17 | Smart, sure-handed receiver who had 53 catches and six TDs for the Eagles in 2020. |
| 16 | Watkins, Quez (RS) | 6-0 | 193 | 4 | Southern Mississippi | 17/8 | D6 20 | D6 PHA 20 | Had only 13 receiving first downs last year. |
| **13** | **Zaccheaus, Olamide** | **5-8** | **194** | **4** | **Virginia** | **17/13** | **UFA,ATL 23** | **CFA ATL 19** | **His 40 catches last season were the second most by a Falcons receiver.** |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **69** | **Dickerson, Landon (LG)** | **6-6** | **332** | **3** | **Alabama** | **17/17** | **D2 21** | **D2 PHA 21** | **Has started 30 games his first two seasons.** |
| 63 | Driscoll, Jack (T) | 6-5 | 312 | 3 | Auburn | 17/3 | D4 20 | D4 PHA 20 | Versatile player who has made starts at RG (8) and both tackle spots (8). |
| 50 | Johnson, Fred (T) | 6-7 | 326 | 5 | Florida | 5/0/1/2 | FA 23 | CFA PITT 19 | Eight starts in 3 seasons with Bengals; signed to Eagles practice squad last season. |
| **65** | **Johnson, Lane (RT)** | **6-6** | **325** | **10** | **Oklahoma** | **15/15/0/2** | **D1 13** | **D1 PHA 13** | **Long regarded as best RT in the game; hasn't given up a sack in two seasons.** |
| **51** | **Jurgens, Cam (RG)** | **6-3** | **303** | **2** | **Nebraska** | **17/0** | **D2 22** | **D2 PHA 22** | **A college center who is the leader in the clubhouse to be the Eagles' starting RG.** |
| **62** | **Kelce, Jason (C)** | **6-3** | **295** | **13** | **Cincinnati** | **17/17** | **D6 11** | **D6 PHA 11** | **At 35, he was PFF's No. 2-rated center last season.** |
| **68** | **Mailata, Jordan (LT)** | **6-8** | **365** | **6** | **None** | **16/16/0/1** | **D7 18** | **D7 PHA 18** | **Former Australian rugby player played 93% of the Eagles' offensive snaps last season.** |
| 78 | Opeta, Sua (G) | 6-4 | 305 | 3 | Weber State | 7/0/0/9 | FA 23 | CFA PHA 19 | Valuable backup who can play all five O-line positions. |
| 56 | Steen, Tyler (T) | 6-6 | 321 | R | Alabama | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 PHA 23 | Played tackle at Alabama, but could be in the mix for the starting RG job as a rookie. |
| 67 | Tom, Cameron (C) | 6-4 | 300 | 5 | Southern Mississippi | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA NORL 17 | Former Saint and Dolphin, he spent the 2022 season on the Eagles' practice squad. |
| 64 | *Toth, Brett (T) | 6-6 | 304 | 5 | Army | 0/0/0/0 | W,ARIZ 20 | CFA PHA 19 | Spent 2022 recovering from knee injury after playing in 17 games in 2020-21. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **14** | **Gainwell, Kenneth** | **5-9** | **200** | **3** | **Memphis** | **17/0** | **D5 21** | **D5 PHA 21** | **Led Eagles in rushing in playoffs last season and made Miles Sanders expendable.** |
| 23 | *Penny, Rashaad | 5-11 | 220 | 6 | San Diego State | 5/5/0/0 | UFA,SEA 23 | D1 SEA 18 | Has missed 32 games due to injury in the last three years. |
| 35 | Scott, Boston (RS) | 5-6 | 203 | 5 | Louisiana Tech | 15/2/0/2 | FA 22 | D6 NORL 18 | Eleven of his 20 career touchdowns have been against the Giants. |
| 22 | Sermon, Trey | 6-0 | 215 | 3 | Ohio State | 2/0/0/15 | W,SF 22 | D3 SF 21 | Former pick of 49ers, he spent most of 2022 on Eagles' practice squad. |
| 0 | Swift, D'Andre | 5-9 | 208 | 4 | Georgia | 14/8/0/3 | T,DET 23 | D2 DET 20 | Acquired in draft-day trade; had 156 receptions in three seasons with the Lions. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Book, Ian | 6-0 | 206 | 3 | Notre Dame | 0/0/2/15 | W,NORL 22 | D4 NORL 21 | Former Saints draft pick will compete with Tanner McKee for the No. 3 QB spot. |
| **1** | **Hurts, Jalen** | **6-1** | **223** | **4** | **Oklahoma** | **15/15/0/2** | **D2 20** | **D2 PHA 20** | **His 12 deep-ball TD passes were the second most in the league in 2022.** |
| 8 | *Mariota, Marcus | 6-4 | 223 | 9 | Oregon | 13/13/0/0 | FA 23 | D1 TENN 15 | With 74 career starts, he will replace Gardner Minshew as Hurts' backup. |
| 10 | McKee, Tanner | 6-6 | 231 | R | Stanford | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 PHA 23 | Twelfth quarterback selected in the 2023 draft. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 96 | *Barnett, Derek (E) | 6-3 | 259 | 7 | Tennessee | 1/0/0/0 | D1 17 | D1 PHA 17 | Tore his ACL in the season-opener and missed the rest of the season. |
| 98 | Carter, Jalen (T) | 6-3 | 314 | R | Georgia | 0/0 | D1 23 | D1 PHA 23 | Might have been best non-QB in draft, but slid to Eagles because of off-field issues. |
| **91** | **Cox, Fletcher (T)** | **6-4** | **310** | **12** | **Mississippi State** | **17/17** | **FA 22** | **D1 PHA 12** | **His seven sacks last season were his most since 2018.** |
| **90** | **Davis, Jordan (NT)** | **6-6** | **336** | **2** | **Georgia** | **13/5/0/0** | **D1 22** | **D1 PHA 22** | **An immovable run-stuffer with freakish athleticism.** |
| 61 | *Elliss, Noah (T) | 6-4 | 346 | 1 | Idaho | 0/0/0/0 | CFA 22 | CFA PHA 22 | Good genes. Father Luther played 10 seasons in NFL; both brothers are in the league. |
| **55** | **Graham, Brandon (E)** | **6-2** | **265** | **14** | **Michigan** | **17/1** | **D1 10** | **D1 PHA 10** | **Had first double-digit sack season at age 34, only a year after tearing his Achilles.** |
| 75 | Jackson, Tarron (E) | 6-2 | 254 | 3 | Coastal Carolina | 4/0/0/2 | FA 23 | D6 PHA 21 | After playing in 17 games as a rookie, spent most of '22 on practice squad. |
| 72 | Ojomo, Moro (T) | 6-3 | 292 | R | Texas | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 PHA 23 | Limited pass-rush skills, but could be a rotational run-down defender. |
| 7 | Reddick, Haason (E) | 6-1 | 240 | 7 | Temple | 17/17 | UFA,CARO 22 | D1 ARIZ 17 | Only Cleveland's Myles Garrett has more sacks in last three seasons than his 39.5. |
| 59 | *Robinson, Janarius (E) | 6-5 | 258 | 3 | Florida State | 0/0/0/7 | FA 22 | D4 MINN 21 | A 2021 of Vikings, he split 2022 between Eagles practice squad and injured reserve. |
| 3 | Smith, Nolan (E) | 6-2 | 238 | R | Georgia | 0/0 | D1 23 | D1 PHA 23 | His 4.39 40 at the Combine was the fastest time of any defensive lineman. |
| 97 | Street, Kentavius (T) | 6-2 | 287 | 5 | North Carolina State | 17/0 | UFA,NORL 23 | D4 SF 18 | Played 500-plus snaps with the Saints last year. |
| **94** | **Sweat, Josh (E)** | **6-5** | **265** | **5** | **Florida State** | **16/16/0/1** | **D4 18** | **D4 PHA 18** | **Has 24.5 sacks in the last three seasons, including a career-high 11 last year.** |
| 95 | *Tuipulotu, Marlon (T) | 6-2 | 307 | 3 | Southern Cal | 9/1/0/0 | D6 21 | D6 PHA 21 | A blue-collar player who is more run-plugger than pass-rush threat. |
| 93 | Williams, Milton (T) | 6-3 | 290 | 3 | Louisiana Tech | 17/0 | D3 21 | D3 PHA 21 | A versatile player who can slide inside or outside; he had four sacks in '22. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 54 | *Bradley, Shaun (O) | 6-1 | 240 | 3 | Temple | 15/0/0/1 | D6 20 | D6 PHA 20 | One of the Eagles' top special-teams players. |
| **17** | **Dean, Nakobe (M)** | **5-11** | **231** | **2** | **Georgia** | **17/0** | **D3 22** | **D3 PHA 22** | **Played only 34 defensive snaps, but moves into T.J. Edwards' MIKE spot this season.** |
| 53 | Elliss, Christian (M) | 6-3 | 231 | 2 | Idaho | 6/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA MINN 21 | Played in six games with the Eagles last season, mostly on special teams. |
| 58 | Johnson, Kyron (O) | 6-0 | 235 | 2 | Kansas | 16/0/0/1 | D6 22 | D6 PHA 22 | Played in 16 games in 2022; finished tied for second on team in special-teams tackles. |
| 48 | Johnson, Patrick (O) | 6-2 | 248 | 3 | Tulane | 16/0/0/1 | D7 21 | D7 PHA 21 | Primarily earned keep on special teams, but did play 213 snaps as a SAM linebacker. |
| **41** | **Morrow, Nicholas (O)** | **6-0** | **225** | **7** | **Greenville** | **17/17** | **UFA,CHI 23** | **CFA OAK 17** | **Started 17 games for the Bears in '22 and led the team in tackles with 83.** |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **32** | **Blankenship, Reed (S)** | **6-1** | **203** | **2** | **Middle Tennessee** | **10/4/0/7** | **CFA 22** | **CFA PHA 22** | **Could be season-opening starter after playing nearly 300 defensive snaps as rookie.** |
| **24** | **Bradberry, James (CB)** | **6-1** | **212** | **8** | **Samford** | **17/17** | **FA 22** | **D2 CARO 16** | **Coming off best year of career; finished third among CBs in pass breakups.** |
| 43 | Brown, Sydney (S) | 5-10 | 211 | R | Illinois | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 PHA 23 | Physical player who can play either safety spot; an outstanding special-teams player. |
| 21 | Chachere, Andre (CB) | 6-0 | 197 | 3 | San Jose State | 7/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA HOUS 18 | Slot corner/special teams gunner; split time between roster and practice squad in 2022. |
| **26** | **Edmunds, Terrell (S)** | **6-1** | **217** | **6** | **Virginia Tech** | **15/15/0/2** | **UFA,PITT 23** | **D1 PITT 18** | **Made 75 starts in five seasons with the Steelers.** |
| 30 | Evans, Justin (S) | 6-0 | 199 | 6 | Texas A&M | 15/4/0/2 | UFA,NORL 23 | D2 TB 17 | A slot corner/safety hybrid who started four games for the Saints in 2022. |
| 28 | Jobe, Josh (CB) | 5-11 | 190 | 2 | Alabama | 11/0/0/6 | CFA 22 | CFA PHA 22 | Played in 11 games last year as an undrafted rookie; primarily on special teams. |
| **29** | **Maddox, Avonte (CB)** | **5-9** | **184** | **5** | **Pittsburgh** | **9/8/0/4** | **FA 20** | **D4 PHA 18** | **One of league's better slot CBs, but hurt too much. Has missed 15 games last 3 years.** |
| 27 | McPhearson, Zech (CB) | 5-11 | 191 | 3 | Texas Tech | 17/0 | D4 21 | D4 PHA 21 | Core special-teamer who played only 99 defensive snaps in 2022. |
| 37 | Ringo, Kelee (CB) | 6-2 | 207 | R | Georgia | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 PHA 23 | Outstanding size-speed CB who dropped to fourth round because of character questions. |
| 33 | Scott, Josiah (CB) | 5-9 | 185 | 4 | Michigan State | 16/4/0/1 | T,JAX 21 | D4 JAX 20 | Started four games last year at slot corner in place of injured Avonte Maddox. |
| **2** | **Slay, Darius (CB)** | **6-0** | **190** | **11** | **Mississippi State** | **17/17** | **T,DET 20** | **D2 DET 13** | **Smart, durable corner who has missed only six games the last six seasons.** |
| 42 | Wallace, K'Von (S) | 5-11 | 205 | 4 | Clemson | 17/1 | D4 20 | D4 PHA 20 | Emergence of Blankenship; arrival of Edmunds, Evans, Brown don't bode well for Wallace. |
| 38 | Williams, Greedy (CB) | 6-2 | 185 | 5 | Louisiana State | 11/0/0/1 | UFA,CLV 23 | D2 CLV 19 | An intriguing size-speed corner who has been slowed by injuries. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Elliott, Jake (K) | 5-9 | 167 | 7 | Memphis | 16/0/0/1 | FA 17 | D5 CIN 17 | Accurate, strong-legged kicker; has made 8 of 9 from 50-plus yards the last two years. |
| 45 | Lovato, Rick (LS) | 6-2 | 249 | 7 | Old Dominion | 17/0 | FA 16 | CFA CHI 15 | Beginning his seventh season as the Eagles' long snapper. |
| 10 | Siposs, Arryn (P) | 6-2 | 212 | 3 | Auburn | 13/0/0/0 | FA 21 | CFA DET 20 | In the bottom third of the league in net punting in both of his first two seasons. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Devon Allen (1, Oregon), Jadon Haselwood (Arkansas), Joseph Ngata (Clemson); TE Brady Russell (Colorado); Ts Julian Good-Jones (1, Iowa State), Roderick Johnson (5, Florida State), Chim Okorafor (Benedictine, Kan.), Trevor Reid (Louisville), Jarrid Williams (1, Miami); G Tyrese Robinson (1, Oklahoma); RB Kennedy Brooks (1, Oklahoma); DE Matt Leo (1, Iowa State); LBs Davion Taylor (2, Colorado), Ben VanSumeren (Michigan State); CBs Mekhi Garner (Louisiana State), Mario Goodrich (1, Clemson), Eli Ricks (Alabama); DB Tristin McCollum (1, Sam Houston State); P Ty Zentner (Kansas State)



Haason Reddick
Photo by Joe Robbins

## RECEIVERS

Roseman has made his fair share of smart trades over the years, but none smarter than the acquisition of A.J. Brown on draft day last year. Brown and DeVonta Smith combined for 183 receptions for 2,692 yards and 18 touchdowns in 2022. Brown, who had a career-high 88 catches, was Hurts' primary deep-ball connection. He led the league in catches of 25 yards or more with 18. Seven of his 11 touchdown catches were 25-plus yards. Dallas Goedert led all NFL tight ends in yards-after-the-catch average (7.8). As a rookie in 2021, Quez Watkins averaged 15.0 yards per catch and had twelve 20-plus yard receptions. But he wasn't as much of a vertical factor last year (10.7 yards per catch, just five 20-plus yard receptions), perhaps because of Brown's presence. The Eagles signed former Falcons wideout Olamide Zaccheaus in the offseason. He had 40 catches last year.

**RATING: 8**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Led by five-time All-Pro center Jason Kelce and two-time All-Pro right tackle Lane Johnson, the line is one of the best in the league. Kelce is 35 and Johnson is 33, but they're both still at the top of their game. In just six years, Jordan Malaita has gone from an Australian rugby player who had never played football to one of the league's best left tackles. Landon Dickerson was drafted two years ago as Kelce's heir apparent at center, but has found a home at left guard. Cam Jurgens, who was drafted last year to replace Kelce, is expected to replace the departed Isaac Seumalo at right guard. They

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

### KEY ADDITION:

**RB D'Andre Swift**

The Eagles added Swift during the draft, trading a fourth-round pick for him. He's a versatile back who averaged 5.5 yards per carry and 8.1 yards per catch last season and is a perfect fit for their running back-by-committee offense.

### OTHER ADDITIONS:

S Terrell Edmunds, S Justin Evans, QB Marcus Mariota, LB Nicholas Morrow, RB Rashaad Penny, DT Kentavius Street, CB Greedy Williams, WR Olamide Zaccheaus

### KEY LOSS:

**RG Isaac Seumalo (17/17)***

Seumalo is one of the most underrated interior linemen in the league and was an ideal fit between All-Pros Jason Kelce and Lane Johnson. He will be missed, though the Eagles have more offensive line depth than any team in the league.

### OTHER LOSSES:

T Andre Dillard (12/0), **LB T.J. Edwards (17/17), S Marcus Epps (17/17), DT Javon Hargrave (17/17), S Anthony Harris (0/0), S C.J. Gardner-Johnson (12/12)**, DT Linval Joseph (8/8), P Brett Kern (4/0), QB Gardner Minshew (5/2), WR Zach Pascal (17/2), LB Robert Quinn (6/0), **RB Miles Sanders (17/15)**, DT Ndamukong Suh (8/0), LB Kyzir White (16/8)*

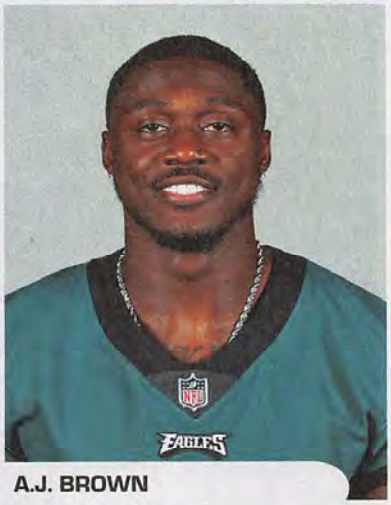
**Total games played/started lost:** 171/115

### STARTERS RETURNING

16: 9 offense, 7 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
**Players in bold started at least half the games**

## 2022 STATISTICS



A.J. BROWN

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jalen Hurts | 460 | 306 | 3701 | 22 | 6 |

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miles Sanders | 259 | 1269 | 4.9 | 11 |
| Jalen Hurts | 165 | 760 | 4.6 | 13 |
| Kenneth Gainwell | 53 | 240 | 4.5 | 4 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A.J. Brown | 88 | 1496 | 17.0 | 11 |
| DeVonta Smith | 95 | 1196 | 12.6 | 7 |
| Dallas Goedert | 55 | 702 | 12.8 | 3 |
| Quez Watkins | 33 | 354 | 10.7 | 3 |

**Kicking:** Elliott 51/53 XPs, 20/23 FGs, 111 points
**Tackles:** Edwards 158, White 110, Epps 93
**Sacks:** Reddick 16, Graham 11, Hargrave 11, Sweat 11
**INTs:** Gardner-Johnson 6, Bradberry 3, Slay 3

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 389.1 | 3 |
| Passing Offense | 241.5 | 9 |
| Rushing Offense | 147.6 | 5 |
| Points | 28.1 | 3 |
| Sacked | 44 | T-20 |
| 3rd Down % | 45.9 | 4 |

| Defense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Defense | 301.5 | 2 |
| Passing Defense | 179.8 | 1 |
| Rushing Defense | 121.6 | T-16 |
| Points Allowed | 20.2 | T-7 |
| INTs | 17 | T-4 |
| Sacks | 70 | 1 |
| Turnover Diff. | +8 | 3 |

lost some of their depth with the departures of Seumalo and backup tackle Andre Dillard. But Jack Driscoll and Sua Opeta are experienced backups, and third-round rookie Tyler Steen was a four-year starter at Vanderbilt and Alabama.

**RATING: 8.5**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Eagles had a league-high 70 sacks, with 62.5 coming from their front four. Defensive tackle Javon Hargrave, who had 11 of those sacks, signed with the 49ers, but it is still a very strong unit. They're five-deep on the edge with Pro Bowlers Haason Reddick (16 sacks), Josh Sweat (11) and Brandon Graham (11), along with rookie first-rounder Nolan Smith and former first-rounder Derek Barnett. Rookie first-round defensive tackle Jalen Carter has star potential. Six-time Pro Bowler Fletcher Cox isn't the dominant player he once was, but still is a smart, productive player who can help mentor Carter. Last year's No. 1 pick, Jordan Davis, is a 340-pound run-stopping force with freakish athleticism. Milton Williams is a versatile player who can play both inside and outside.

**RATING: 9**

## LINEBACKERS

The Eagles seldom have invested a lot of money in the linebacker position, which is why both of their 2022 starters, T.J. Edwards and Kyzir White, left via free agency. They are expected to be replaced by Nakobe Dean, a second-year player who the Eagles took in the third round in 2021, and veteran Nicholas Morrow, who was a 17-game starter for the Bears last season. Dean was used primarily on special teams as a rookie, but the Eagles are high on the former Georgia star. Morrow is a productive player who had 116 tackles last season. Shaun Bradley and Christian Elliss are expected to be the primary backups. Also in the picture: Davion Taylor, a 2020 third-round pick with 4.4 speed.

**RATING: 7**

## SECONDARY

The Eagles had the third-best opponent passer rating in the league last year (81.6), and finished tied for fourth in interceptions with 17. While their fierce pass rush had a lot to do with those numbers, so did the play of their outside corners, Darius Slay and James Bradberry. Despite a tight cap situation, the Eagles were able to re-sign Bradberry, who was a free agent, and restructure Slay's deal. Avonte Maddox is a solid slot corner, but has trouble staying healthy. He missed eight games last season. The Eagles signed Greedy Williams as a potential backup to Slay and Bradberry. Third-round rookie Kelee Ringo, yet another Georgia product, has a chance to see playing time right away. Zech McPhearson and Josh Jobe also are in the mix at corner. The Eagles lost both starting safeties — C.J. Gardner-Johnson and Marcus Epps — to free agency, but signed veterans Terrell Edmunds and Justin Evans and drafted Sydney Brown in the third round. Reed Blankenship, who played nearly 300 snaps as a rookie, also will compete for one of the starting jobs.

**RATING: 7.5**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Jake Elliott is one of the league's most reliable kickers. He's converted 50 of 56 field-goal attempts in the last two years, including 9 of 11 from 50-plus yards. Punter Arryn Siposs was inconsistent last year. He finished 26th in gross average (45.6) and 30th in net average (39.6). He'll have competition from undrafted rookie Ty Zentner. Rick Lovato is entering his seventh season as the Eagles' long snapper. Britain Covey was the team's primary punt returner last season and averaged 9.3 yards per return. Boston Scott handled the bulk of the kickoff returns, averaging 27.1 yards per return.

**RATING: 7.5**

## INTANGIBLES

The Eagles were one of the healthiest teams in the league last season, but that doesn't usually happen two years in a row.

**RATING: Minus-1**

— Paul Domowitch

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A little less running from Jalen Hurts. Hurts ran the ball 165 times last season. While he has the sturdy body of a fullback and is one of the league's best running quarterbacks, the Eagles likely will try to get that number down a bit this season.

2. A little more use of the running backs in the passing game. Eagles running backs caught only 48 passes last season. With Kenneth Gainwell's expanded role and the addition of another excellent pass-catching back, D'Andre Swift, that is likely to change.

3. Different defensive coordinator, similar philosophy. The defense under Sean Desai won't be all that much different from the one under Jonathan Gannon — not a lot of blitzing, two-high safeties and an emphasis on not giving up the big play.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 16-4**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | at Detroit | 38-35 |
| Sept. 19 | MINNESOTA | 24-7 |
| Sept. 25 | at Washington | 24-8 |
| Oct. 2 | JACKSONVILLE | 29-21 |
| Oct. 9 | at Arizona | 20-17 |
| Oct. 16 | DALLAS | 26-17 |
| Oct. 30 | PITTSBURGH | 35-13 |
| Nov. 3 | at Houston | 29-17 |
| Nov. 14 | WASHINGTON | 21-32 |
| Nov. 20 | at Indianapolis | 17-16 |
| Nov. 27 | GREEN BAY | 40-33 |
| Dec. 4 | TENNESSEE | 35-10 |
| Dec. 11 | at N.Y. Giants | 48-22 |
| Dec. 18 | at Chicago | 25-20 |
| Dec. 24 | at Dallas | 34-40 |
| Jan. 1 | NEW ORLEANS | 10-20 |
| Jan. 8 | N.Y. GIANTS | 22-16 |
| Jan. 21 | N.Y. GIANTS (Sat) | 38-7 |
| Jan. 29 | SAN FRANCISCO | 31-7 |
| Feb. 12 | Kansas City | 35-38 |

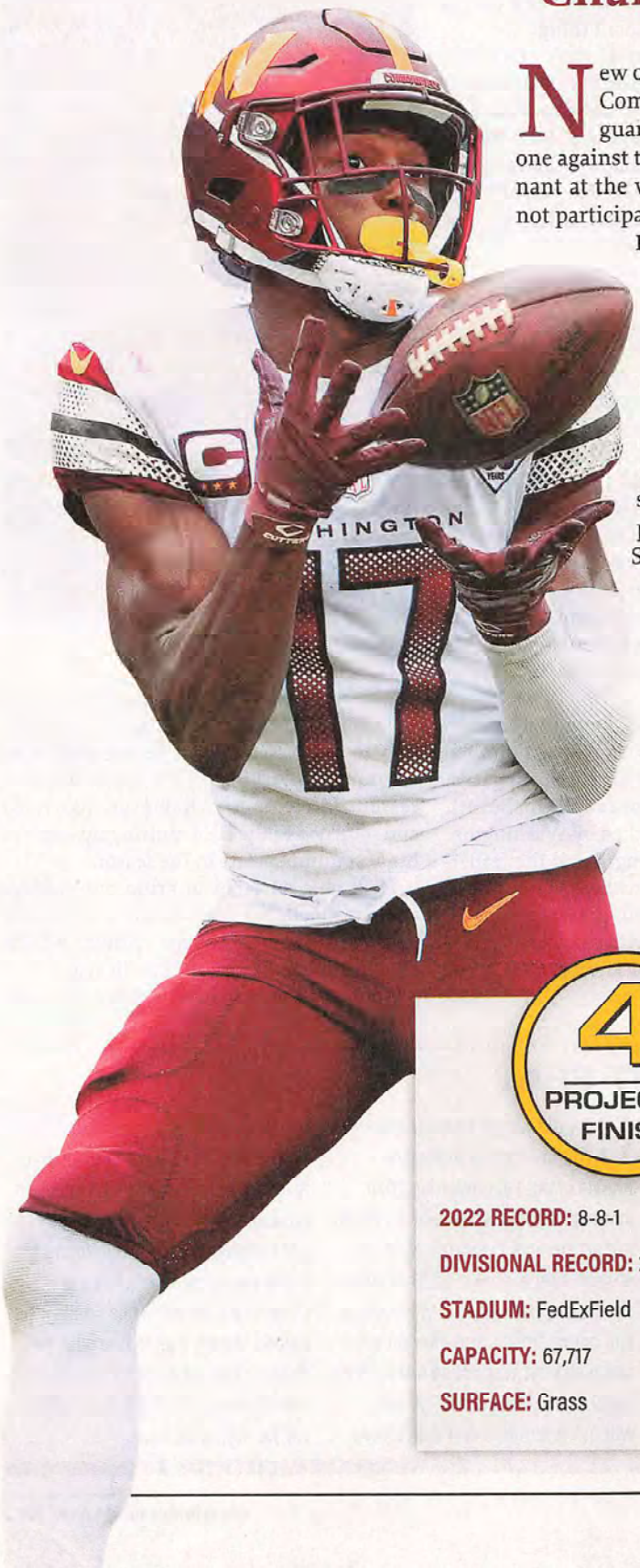
## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Eastern**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 11 | at Baltimore (Fri) | 7:00 |
| Aug. 17 | CLEVELAND (Thu) | 7:30 |
| Aug. 24 | INDIANAPOLIS (Thu) | 8:00 |
| Sept. 10 | at New England | 4:25 |
| Sept. 14 | MINNESOTA (Thu) | 8:15 |
| Sept. 25 | at Tampa Bay (Mon) | 7:15 |
| Oct. 1 | WASHINGTON | 1:00 |
| Oct. 8 | at L.A. Rams | 4:05 |
| Oct. 15 | at N.Y. Jets | 4:25 |
| Oct. 22 | MIAMI | 8:20 |
| Oct. 29 | at Washington | 1:00 |
| Nov. 5 | DALLAS | 4:25 |
| | BYE | |
| Nov. 20 | at Kansas City (Mon) | 8:15 |
| Nov. 26 | BUFFALO | 4:25 |
| Dec. 3 | SAN FRANCISCO | 4:25 |
| Dec. 10 | at Dallas | 8:20 |
| Dec. 17 | at Seattle | 4:25 |
| Dec. 25 | N.Y. GIANTS (Mon) | 4:30 |
| Dec. 31 | ARIZONA | 1:00 |
| TBD | at N.Y. Giants | TBD |

# WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

## Change at Top Lifts Storm Clouds



New owner, new hope for the fan base, but ultimately the same team. The Commanders had three games last year where a win would have all but guaranteed them a playoff spot, two against the New York Giants and one against the Cleveland Browns. Instead of delivering, their offense went stagnant at the worst possible time, and Washington was the only NFC East team not participating in the postseason.

It's unlikely the division is that hot again in 2023, but there's little to suggest that the Commanders took a step forward in the offseason. A new ownership group, led by Josh Harris, who controls the NBA's 76ers and the NHL's Devils, is likely to inject fresh resources, and perhaps fresh thinking, next offseason, but that will be too late to matter for this year's team.

The most intriguing subplot is likely to be how new offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy fares. After failing to land a head coaching job after his work with the Kansas City Chiefs, Bieniemy will settle for an increased role in Washington, where he takes over play-calling, something he never did under head coach Andy Reid. Success means an almost certain promotion to a head job, either here or elsewhere.

However, past performance is no indication of future results, and Patrick Mahomes ain't walking through that door.

Success in Washington in many ways would be the ultimate vindication for Bieniemy, because the list of those who have tried to tame this beast, and failed, is longer than a CVS receipt.

**Terry McLaurin**
Photo by AP Photo/Nick Wass

**4**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 8-8-1

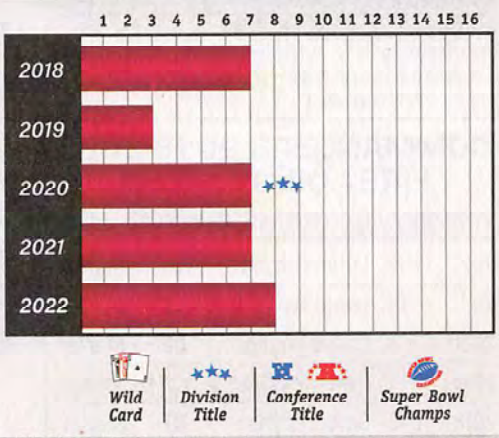
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 2-3-1

**STADIUM:** FedExField

**CAPACITY:** 67,717

**SURFACE:** Grass

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

**21300 COACH GIBBS DRIVE**
**ASHBURN, VA 20147**
**(703) 726-7000**
**WWW.WASHINGTONFOOTBALL.COM**

**TRAINING CAMP:** OrthoVirginia Performance Center at Commanders Park; Ashburn, VA
**HEAD COACH:** Ron Rivera
- 4th season with Commanders
- 22-28-1 overall; 0-1 postseason
- 13th season as NFL head coach
- 101-95-2 overall; 3-5 postseason

**CO-OWNERS/CO-CEOS:** Daniel M. Snyder, Tanya Snyder
**PRESIDENT:** Jason Wright
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Martin Mayhew
**EVP FOOTBALL/PLAYER PERS.:** Marty Hurney
**SR. DIR. PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Eric Stokes
**DIR. COLLEGE PERSONNEL:** Tim Gribble
**DIR. PRO PERSONNEL:** Chris Polian

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Eric Bieniemy | *Offensive coordinator | 18 | 1 |
| Ken Zampese | &Sr. offensive advisor | 25 | 4 |
| Tavita Pritchard | Quarterbacks | 1 | 1 |
| Luke Del Rio | Asst. QB/off. QC | 4 | 4 |
| TBD | Offensive line | | |
| Travelle Wharton | Assistant line | 6 | 4 |
| Randy Jordan | Running backs | 11 | 10 |
| Jennifer King | Asst. running backs | 3 | 3 |
| Bobby Engram | Receivers | 10 | 1 |
| Juan Castillo | Tight ends | 28 | 2 |
| Todd Storm | Asst. tight ends | 6 | 4 |
| Tyrae Reid Jr. | Offensive assistant | 2 | 2 |
| Shane Toub | Off. Qual. Control | 5 | 1 |
| Jack Del Rio | Defensive coordinator | 25 | 4 |
| Jeff Zgonina | Defensive line | 8 | 4 |
| Ryan Kerrigan | Asst. line | 2 | 2 |
| Steve Russ | Linebackers | 6 | 4 |
| Vincent Rivera | Asst. LB/def. QC | 6 | 4 |
| Brent Vieselmeyer | Defensive backs | 8 | 4 |
| Richard Rodgers | #Safeties | 12 | 4 |
| Christian Garcia | Asst. DB/nickel backs | 2 | 2 |
| Reggie Howard | Def. quality control | 1 | 1 |
| Nate Kaczor | Special teams coord. | 16 | 5 |
| Ben Jacobs | Asst. special teams | 5 | 4 |
| Brett Nenaber | Dir. player performance | 11 | 4 |
| Chad Englehart | Head S&C | 14 | 14 |
| Kavan Latham | Asst. S&C | 9 | 7 |
| Jake Sankal | Asst. S&C | 8 | 8 |
| Ryan Vermillion Jr. | Asst. H&C/player perf. | 1 | 1 |

* Assistant head coach & Game management
# Senior defensive assistant

## COMMANDERS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/16 | Jahan Dotson | WR | Starter |
| 2021 | 1/19 | Jamin Davis | LB | Starter |
| 2020 | 1/2 | Chase Young | DE | Starter |
| 2019 | 1/15 | Dwayne Haskins | QB | Deceased |
| 2018 | 1/13 | Daron Payne | NT | Starter |

## COACHING

No need to sugarcoat it: Ron Rivera needs to make the playoffs, and probably win a game there, to have any chance of saving his job. A new ownership group almost always means change at the top, and Rivera has full control over personnel, something the next coach is unlikely to enjoy.

Still, Rivera should be lauded for keeping the ship afloat during turbulent times in Washington, and players love to be a part of his teams, which is no small thing.

Defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio enjoyed a career renaissance last season, deftly navigating subpar seasons from two of his highest-paid players (Chase Young and William Jackson III) and putting the team in position to make the playoffs if it hadn't been for the offensive meltdown that brought Bieniemy aboard.

**RATING: 7.5**

## QUARTERBACKS

After back-to-back offseasons of big splashes with Ryan Fitzpatrick and Carson Wentz, the Commanders laid low this offseason. They'll give the ball to second-year player Sam Howell to start the season, with Jacoby Brissett backing Howell up.

Brissett isn't there just to hold a clipboard, and indeed, Washington backups often find themselves thrust into action, as Taylor Heinicke and Colt McCoy can attest, but it will be a major surprise if anybody other than Howell takes snaps in the first month of the season.

Howell had major draft buzz after an electric sophomore season at North Carolina, but after losing most of his supporting cast, regressed badly as a junior and slid to the fifth round, where he was picked by Washington.

He's got the arm strength and the leadership skills to succeed in the NFL, but decision-making and pocket presence remain question marks. He'll get a chance, which is the most a fifth-round pick can ask for.

**RATING: 6.5**

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

One of the more unfortunate storylines from training camp last year was the incident involving RB **Brian Robinson** in which he suffered two gunshot wounds. The former third-round pick survived the attack and bounced back to suit up for the final 12 games of the season. His ability to grind out the carries between the tackles brought a renowned toughness to the offense. He'll be needed to continue in that capacity for an entire season, as the ground attack duo of Robinson and backfield mate RB Antonio Gibson hold the keys to success in D.C. ... Can this finally be the big breakout year the Commanders have been waiting to see from DE **Chase Young**? After an exhilarating rookie season that included 7.5 sacks, Young was deemed a "generational talent." Since then, he has missed 21 games over the past two years. ... The most improved player from a year ago is likely SS **Darrick Forrest**, who went from rarely used backup to one of the top young safeties in the league. He has only begun to scratch the surface, as Forrest is a future star in the making with his propensity for the big play.

## RUNNING BACKS

The Commanders thought they found their back of the future in Brian Robinson Jr., only to watch in horror as he was shot in an attempted carjacking on the eve of the 2022 season. Miraculously, Robinson recovered and returned to the field, putting up some of his best numbers late in the season.

He'll be a sure bet to grind out yardage and run clock, but don't count out Antonio Gibson, the former college receiver who is dynamic when he gets the ball in space.

Robinson's workload will be worth moni-

## ON THE HOT SEAT

CHASE YOUNG

How did we get here so quickly? Young won the Defensive Rookie of the Year award in 2020, in an admittedly weak year, by dominating the final eight games of the season after a slow start. That offseason he skipped optional workouts to film commercials, and after another sluggish start was called out by head coach Ron Rivera for not playing within the scheme and didn't have his fifth-year option picked up.

Young then tore his ACL, ultimately leading to an extended recovery of more than 12 months. He's clearly still got the physical tools, but Young's numbers are pedestrian in the games he's played while healthy. He helped launch a shoe line with New Balance this offseason, but without production on the field, those offers will be drying up soon.

Brian Robinson
Photo by Brad Mills-USA TODAY Sports

toring, as he's yet to play a full NFL season, and his bruising style left him worn down at the end of 2022, but the skills are undeniable.

**RATING: 7**

## RECEIVERS

Jahan Dotson turned heads from his very first snaps at rookie camp, and is a worthy No. 2 to star Terry McLaurin. Add in a healthy Curtis Samuel, and there's lots to like at the receiver position. Samuel's best season in Carolina came after assistant coach Scott Turner left, and it's possible he enjoys similar success now that he's under Bieniemy in Washington.

At tight end, Logan Thomas struggled last year on his way back from ACL surgery, but his numbers should bounce back. John Bates will be needed as a blocker given the shaky state of the offensive line.

**RATING: 7.5**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Bad injury luck, late-season struggles, and yes, personnel mismanagement all took its toll on the line, where Washington had one of its worst seasons in recent memory.

Center Chase Roullier had been dogged by injuries ever since establishing himself as a cornerstone piece of the line and was released May 5.

At left tackle, Charles Leno Jr. looked like a revelation in 2021 when he was signed away from the Bears, but by the end of last season, he was wearing down and made costly mistakes in key games. It would be a major roll of the dice to not upgrade there before the season starts.

Meanwhile, the specter of what could have been continues to loom over the franchise, which lost Trent Williams and Brandon Scherff with virtually no compensation on owner Dan Snyder's watch.

**RATING: 6.5**

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

### KEY ADDITION:

**Eric Bieniemy**
The former Chiefs offensive coordinator is betting on himself: If he can whip Washington into shape, he'll have his pick of head coaching jobs. If not, there's no safety net waiting.

### OTHER ADDITIONS:

DE Abdullah Anderson, LB Cody Barton, QB Jacoby Brissett, CB Cameron Dantzler, C/G Nick Gates, T Trent Scott, T Andrew Wylie

### KEY LOSS:

**QB Taylor Heinicke (9/9)***
He may not have been the answer on the field, but he was the glue in a locker room that has weathered its share of off-the-field storms. That leadership will be missed.

### OTHER LOSSES:

LB Jon Bostic (15/5), LB Cole Holcomb (7/7), C Nick Martin (4/2), G Wes Martin (6/0), **S Bobby McCain (17/16)**, RB J.D. McKissic (8/0), C Chase Roullier (2/2), G Wes Schweitzer (7/6), WR Cam Sims (17/3), DE Shaka Toney (17/0), **G Trai Turner (16/12)**, QB Carson Wentz (8/7), TE Eli Wolf (0/0)*
**Total games played/started lost: 133/69**

### STARTERS RETURNING

19: 9 offense, 10 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS

DARON PAYNE

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Taylor Heinicke | 259 | 161 | 1859 | 12 | 6 |
| Carson Wentz | 276 | 172 | 1755 | 11 | 9 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brian Robinson Jr. | 205 | 797 | 3.9 | 2 |
| Antonio Gibson | 149 | 546 | 3.7 | 3 |
| Curtis Samuel | 38 | 187 | 4.9 | 1 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Terry McLaurin | 77 | 1191 | 15.5 | 5 |
| Curtis Samuel | 64 | 656 | 10.3 | 4 |
| Jahan Dotson | 35 | 523 | 14.9 | 7 |
| Antonio Gibson | 46 | 353 | 7.7 | 2 |

**Kicking:** Slye 24/28 XPs, 25/30 FGs, 99 points
**Tackles:** Davis 104, Curt 84, Forrest 84
**Sacks:** Payne 11.5, Sweat 8, Allen 7.5
**INTs:** Forrest 4, Fuller 3, Johnson 1, Allen 1

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 330.3 | 20 |
| Passing Offense | 204.2 | 21 |
| Rushing Offense | 126.1 | 12 |
| Points | 18.9 | 24 |
| Sacked | 48 | 26 |
| 3rd Down % | 35.2 | 26 |
| **Defense** | | |
| Total Defense | 304.6 | 3 |
| Passing Defense | 191.3 | 4 |
| Rushing Defense | 113.3 | 11 |
| Points Allowed | 20.2 | T-7 |
| INTs | 9 | 28 |
| Sacks | 43 | 12 |
| Turnover Diff. | -5 | T-26 |

# COMMANDERS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 87 | Bates, John (TE) | 6-6 | 259 | 3 | Boise State | 16/8/1/0 | D4 21 | D4 WSH 21 | With a dicey O-line, his blocking will be a prized asset, if not his pass-catching. |
| 2 | Brown, Dyami | 6-0 | 195 | 3 | North Carolina | 15/0/0/2 | D3 21 | D3 WSH 21 | He's hoping his college connection with Howell pays dividends at the pro level. |
| **1** | **Dotson, Jahan** | **5-11** | **182** | **2** | **Penn State** | **12/10/0/5** | **D1 22** | **D1 WSH 22** | **Precise route-runner whose fantasy value is diminished by quarterback uncertainty.** |
| 86 | Erickson, Alex (RS) | 6-0 | 195 | 7 | Wisconsin | 2/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA CIN 16 | Return game has lagged in Washington for years. Can Erickson give it a spark? |
| 80 | *Hodges, Curtis (TE) | 6-8 | 240 | 2 | Arizona State | 0/0/0/0 | CFA 22 | CFA WSH 22 | Brought in as a developmental prospect, but impressed coaches right away during camp. |
| 19 | Kemp, Marcus | 6-4 | 210 | 5 | Hawaii | 3/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA KC 17 | Follows new offensive coordinator Bieniemy from KC, but only a fringe roster prospect. |
| **17** | **McLaurin, Terry** | **6-0** | **210** | **5** | **Ohio State** | **17/17** | **D3 19** | **D3 WSH 19** | **Found his stride as a vocal leader last year in addition to his otherworldly numbers.** |
| 15 | Milne, Dax (RS) | 6-0 | 190 | 3 | Brigham Young | 15/1/0/2 | D7 21 | D7 WSH 21 | Likely to be inactive on game days unless there's a need for him on special teams. |
| 88 | Rogers, Armani (TE) | 6-5 | 225 | 2 | Ohio | 11/3/0/0 | CFA 22 | CFA WSH 22 | One of a trio of second-year tight ends who coaches think highly of (Hodges, Turner). |
| **4** | **Samuel, Curtis** | **5-11** | **195** | **7** | **Ohio State** | **17/13** | **UFA,CARO 21** | **D2 CARO 17** | **Switching back to old college number an attempt to spark more big plays this season.** |
| **82** | **Thomas, Logan (TE)** | **6-6** | **250** | **8** | **Virginia Tech** | **14/13/0/3** | **UFA,DET 20** | **D4 ARIZ 14** | **Recovery from gruesome knee injury cost him last year; expect a bounce-back season.** |
| 85 | Turner, Cole (TE) | 6-6 | 240 | 2 | Nevada | 10/2/0/7 | D5 22 | D5 WSH 22 | Furthest along of the young tight ends; could challenge Thomas for minutes this year. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 62 | Akingbulu, Alex (T) | 6-5 | 300 | 1 | Fresno State | 0/0/1/0 | FA 22 | CFA WSH 22 | After going undrafted, made it to the USFL title game last year with the Philly Stars. |
| **77** | ***Charles, Saahdiq (LG)** | **6-4** | **322** | **4** | **Louisiana State** | **13/3/0/3** | **D4 20** | **D4 WSH 20** | **Career backup gifted golden opportunity by lack of free agency moves or draft picks.** |
| **76** | **Cosmi, Sam (RT)** | **6-6** | **309** | **3** | **Texas** | **14/6/1/2** | **D2 21** | **D2 WSH 21** | **Stout tackle can also play at guard, though he's been clear he prefers the former.** |
| 79 | Daniels, Braeden (G) | 6-4 | 297 | R | Utah | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 WSH 23 | College tackle will get a shot at the position, but might be better as an NFL guard. |
| **63** | **Gates, Nick (C)** | **6-6** | **312** | **6** | **Nebraska** | **10/8/0/0** | **UFA,NYG 23** | **CFA NYG 18** | **Career-altering injury came at FedEx Field; now after triumphant comeback he returns.** |
| 69 | *Larsen, Tyler (C) | 6-4 | 335 | 8 | Utah State | 9/8/0/0 | UFA,CARO 21 | CFA MIA 14 | Secret ingredient? Commanders played eight games with him last year and were 6-1-1. |
| **72** | **Leno Jr., Charles (LT)** | **6-3** | **302** | **10** | **Boise State** | **17/17** | **FA 21** | **D7 CHI 14** | **Man of the Year nominee already a fixture in Washington, but finish to 2022 was ugly.** |
| 78 | Lucas, Cornelius (T) | 6-8 | 327 | 9 | Kansas State | 16/12/0/1 | UFA,CHI 20 | CFA DET 14 | Swing tackle has been a dependable backup at a position where that role is crucial. |
| 68 | Norwell, Andrew (G) | 6-6 | 310 | 10 | Ohio State | 16/16/0/1 | UFA,JAX 22 | CFA CAR 14 | Potential $2.2 million cap savings makes it unlikely he's on the Week 1 roster. |
| 75 | Paul, Chris (G) | 6-4 | 324 | 2 | Tulsa | 1/1/2/14 | D7 22 | D7 WSH 22 | Coaching staff raved about his rookie growth; now it's time to show it on the field. |
| 66 | Scott, Trent (T/G) | 6-5 | 320 | 6 | Grambling | 8/1/9/0 | UFA,PITT 23 | CFA LAC 18 | Former Panther didn't overlap with Rivera; faces long odds to make roster. |
| 53 | Stromberg, Ricky (C) | 6-4 | 313 | R | Arkansas | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 WSH 23 | Great third-round value for a SEC player who excels blocking for the run in space. |
| **71** | **Wylie, Andrew (RG)** | **6-6** | **309** | **6** | **Eastern Michigan** | **17/17** | **UFA,KC 23** | **CFA IND 17** | **Can play tackle or guard; will be a key bridge as Bieniemy installs his systems.** |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 40 | Armah, Alex (FB) | 6-1 | 255 | 6 | West Georgia | 3/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D6 CARO 17 | A training camp regular, but there's still no room on the 53 for a fullback. |
| 24 | *Gibson, Antonio | 6-2 | 220 | 4 | Memphis | 15/6/0/1 | D3 20 | D3 WSH 20 | If Sam Howell can develop into a consistent passer, Gibson's fantasy value will soar. |
| 32 | Patterson, Jaret | 5-8 | 195 | 2 | Buffalo | 3/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA WSH 21 | Hometown back once again on the outside looking in, but practice squad is likely. |
| **8** | **Robinson Jr., Brian** | **6-1** | **228** | **2** | **Alabama** | **12/9/0/1** | **D3 22** | **D3 WSH 22** | **Didn't break off a lot of long runs, but the ones he did came in major moments.** |
| 23 | Rodriguez Jr., Chris | 5-11 | 224 | R | Kentucky | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 WSH 23 | A favorite of new OC Bieniemy; powerful rusher, but little receiving experience. |
| 41 | Williams, Jonathan | 6-0 | 217 | 7 | Arkansas | 13/2/0/4 | FA 21 | D5 BUFF 16 | Proved he's still got it during fill-in action; physical style an asset to the room. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Brissett, Jacoby | 6-4 | 235 | 8 | North Carolina State | 16/11/1/0 | UFA,CLV 23 | D3 NE 16 | Outshone Deshaun Watson in Cleveland; earning him sizable payday in Washington. |
| | DeMorat, Tim | 6-4 | 220 | R | Fordham | 0/0 | CFA 23 | CFA WSH 23 | Fordham record setter (4,891 yards, 56 TDs last year) has a path to the No. 3 role. |
| 16 | Fromm, Jake | 6-2 | 215 | 3 | Georgia | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D5 BUFF 20 | Small NFL sample with the Giants hardly inspires confidence, but he'll get a chance. |
| **14** | **Howell, Sam** | **6-1** | **220** | **2** | **North Carolina** | **1/1/7/9** | **D5 22** | **D5 WSH 22** | **Tough to project big things off of one game vs. Cowboys team with nothing on the line.** |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **93** | **Allen, Jonathan (T)** | **6-3** | **300** | **7** | **Alabama** | **16/16/0/1** | **D1 17** | **D1 WSH 17** | **No post-contract letdown for Allen, who is as steady as they come in the interior.** |
| 92 | Anderson, Abdullah (E) | 6-4 | 295 | 4 | Bucknell | 16/8/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA CHI 18 | Journeyman is on his seventh NFL team; has played in 10 career pro games. |
| 64 | Bada, David (E) | 6-4 | 293 | 1 | None | 1/0/0/0 | FA 22 | FA WSH 20 | International exemption player saw his pro dreams come true in last year's finale. |
| 55 | Henry, K.J. (E) | 6-4 | 255 | R | Clemson | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 WSH 23 | Captain and leader comes with rave reviews from Dabo Swinney, Clemson teammates. |
| 48 | Jones Jr., Andre (E) | 6-5 | 258 | R | Louisiana | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 WSH 23 | Late-round pick a solid insurance policy as Young, Sweat both enter contract years. |
| 98 | *Mathis, Phidarian (T) | 6-4 | 312 | 2 | Alabama | 1/0/0/0 | D2 22 | D2 WSH 22 | Return from Week 1 injury will provide Commanders ability to rest Payne and Allen. |
| 97 | Obada, Efe (E) | 6-6 | 265 | 6 | None | 17/1 | UFA,BUFF 22 | FA DALL 15 | Reuniting with Rivera a savvy career move for Obada, who carved out rotational role. |
| **94** | **Payne, Daron (T)** | **6-3** | **320** | **6** | **Alabama** | **17/17** | **D1 18** | **D1 WSH 18** | **Final sack dance was him writing a check; cashed a big one a few months later.** |
| 79 | Potoa'e, Benning (E) | 6-3 | 290 | 1 | Washington | 2/0/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA TB 20 | Back for another year of practice-squad duty after two in the same role in Tampa. |
| 91 | Ridgeway, John (T) | 6-5 | 321 | 2 | Arkansas | 15/3/0/1 | W,DALL 22 | D5 DALL 22 | Cowboys got to him first in last year's draft. When they cut him, Washington pounced. |
| 96 | Smith-Williams, James (E) | 6-4 | 265 | 4 | North Carolina State | 14/14/0/3 | D7 20 | D7 WSH 20 | Steady play at a crowded position has earned him a roster spot two years running. |
| **90** | **Sweat, Montez (E)** | **6-6** | **262** | **5** | **Mississippi State** | **17/17** | **D1 19** | **D1 WSH 19** | **Contract year time for Sweat, who dominates games far more than his stats show.** |
| 95 | Toohill, Casey (E) | 6-5 | 254 | 4 | Stanford | 16/0/0/1 | W,PHA 20 | D7 PHA 20 | Blossomed with Young injured, but playing time, roster space now harder to come by. |
| **99** | **Young, Chase (E)** | **6-5** | **264** | **4** | **Ohio State** | **3/2/0/3** | **D1 20** | **D1 WSH 20** | **Make-or-break year for former can't-miss prospect who struggled in return from ACL.** |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **57** | **Barton, Cody (M)** | **6-2** | **237** | **5** | **Utah** | **17/11** | **UFA,SEA 23** | **D3 SEA 19** | **Pickup from Seahawks will jump right in; likely wearing headset and calling plays.** |
| **52** | ***Davis, Jamin (I)** | **6-3** | **234** | **3** | **Kentucky** | **16/15/0/0** | **D1 21** | **D1 WSH 21** | **Move to the outside resulted in a big year, but that spot isn't what the team needed.** |
| 46 | Eifler, Milo (O) | 6-2 | 225 | 2 | Illinois | 10/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA NYJ 21 | In his third season has a firm grasp of the defense and delivers when called upon. |
| 50 | Gerry, Nathan (O) | 6 2 | 218 | 4 | Nebraska | 4/0/0/0 | FA 22 | D5 PHA 17 | Injuries have held back career in Washington, but he has a path to making the roster. |
| 45 | *Harris, De'Jon (M) | 6-0 | 245 | 2 | Arkansas | 5/0/0/3 | FA 22 | CFA NE 20 | Known by the name "Scoota," he's not flashy, but provides steady depth in Washington. |
| 47 | Hudson, Khaleke (O) | 6-0 | 220 | 4 | Michigan | 13/1/0/0 | FA 22 | D5 WSH 20 | Wait for his breakout game continues, though there were flashes in 2022 finale. |
| 51 | Mayo, David (O) | 6-2 | 240 | 9 | Texas State | 14/3/0/4 | FA 22 | D5 CARO 15 | He keeps finding the field for Rivera-coached teams when they're in a pinch. |
| 50 | *White, Drew | 6-0 | 228 | 2 | Notre Dame | 0/0/0/0 | CFA 22 | CFA WSH 22 | Back for another round after impressing last year, but leaving camp early with injury. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | Apke, Troy (S) | 6-1 | 205 | 5 | Penn State | 2/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D4 WSH 18 | Is an elite special-teams gunner, but does not provide any value in the secondary. |
| 26 | Butler, Percy (S) | 6-0 | 191 | 2 | Louisiana | 15/0/0/2 | D4 22 | D4 WSH 22 | One of two secondary draft picks from last year (Holmes) that team is thrilled with. |
| 40 | *Castro-Fields, Tariq (CB) | 6-1 | 197 | 2 | Penn State | 2/0/0/4 | W,SF 22 | D6 SF 22 | Rookie season cut short by injury, but there's no sure path to spot this time around. |
| **31** | **Curl, Kamren (S)** | **6-2** | **198** | **4** | **Arkansas** | **12/12/0/5** | **D7 20** | **D7 WSH 20** | **Elite instincts have put him in line for a big payday, either this year or next.** |
| 3 | Dantzler, Cameron (CB) | 6-2 | 188 | 4 | Mississippi State | 10/9/1/2 | W,MINN 23 | D3 MINN 20 | Struggled to crack rotation in Minnesota; it won't be any easier in Washington. |
| **13** | **Forbes, Emmanuel (CB)** | **6-0** | **180** | **R** | **Mississippi State** | **0/0** | **D1 23** | **D1 WSH 23** | **Undersized, but production against SEC's best last three years speaks for itself.** |
| **22** | **Forrest, Darrick (S)** | **5-11** | **200** | **3** | **Cincinnati** | **17/11** | **D5 21** | **D5 WSH 21** | **Grew into a starting-caliber player; finished last year with six turnovers created.** |
| **29** | **Fuller, Kendall (CB)** | **5-11** | **198** | **8** | **Virginia Tech** | **17/17** | **UFA,KC 20** | **D3 WSH 16** | **Veteran corner is on the chopping block if he doesn't produce in this year's camp.** |
| 34 | Holmes, Christian (CB) | 6-1 | 205 | 2 | Oklahoma State | 17/2 | D7 22 | D7 WSH 22 | Fearless tackler, but gets beat too often to fully trust against NFL receivers. |
| 36 | Johnson, Danny (CB) | 5-9 | 190 | 5 | Southern | 11/4/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA WSH 18 | Longtime reserve always answers the bell when called on; finished 2022 strong. |
| 20 | Martin, Quan (S) | 6-0 | 195 | R | Illinois | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 WSH 23 | Rookie projects as either a nickel back or a safety; will probably learn both roles. |
| 39 | Reaves, Jeremy (S) | 5-11 | 200 | 4 | South Alabama | 17/3 | FA 21 | CFA PHA 18 | Cut four times; kept bouncing back and made Pro Bowl on special teams last year. |
| **25** | ***St-Juste, Benjamin (CB)** | **6-3** | **200** | **3** | **Minnesota** | **12/12/0/4** | **D3 21** | **D3 WSH 21** | **Canadian uses his length to disrupt opponents; seems to always be in the right place.** |
| 37 | Wildgoose, Rachad (CB) | 5-10 | 191 | 3 | Wisconsin | 15/3/0/2 | W,NYJ 22 | D6 BUFF 21 | Lacks the size and explosiveness to crack the rotation; a depth piece at best. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 54 | Cheeseman, Camaron (LS) | 6-4 | 237 | 3 | Michigan | 17/0 | D6 21 | D6 WSH 21 | The cheese has one of the league's most unique names, most consistent snaps. |
| 6 | Slye, Joey (K) | 5-11 | 213 | 5 | Virginia Tech | 17/0 | FA 21 | CFA NYG 19 | Extremely consistent on extra points and from inside the 50; fades any farther back. |
| **5** | **Way, Tress (P)** | **6-1** | **220** | **10** | **Oklahoma** | **17/0** | **W,CHI 14** | **CFA CHI 13** | **One of the league's best punters was a rare bright spot for fans in recent years.** |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; SD=Supplemental Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WR Kyric Mcgowan (1, Georgia Tech); Ts Drew Himmelman (1, Illinois State), Aaron Monteiro (1, Boston College); Gs Nolan Laufenberg (1, Air Force), Keaton Sutherland (3, Texas A&M); DE William Bradley-King (1, Baylor); CB DaMarcus Fields (1, Texas Tech)

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Washington's defensive tackles are the envy of the league. There might be better individual players, but there's not a better grouping than Jonathan Allen, Daron Payne and Phidarian Mathis. The three Alabama alums have been stout against the run at a time when the league is valuing that more than ever.

But the real intrigue this offseason is on the outside, where all eyes are on Chase Young. The former No. 2 overall pick won Defensive Rookie of the Year, but did so by finishing strong after a sluggish start to his NFL career.

Year 2 brought a slow start and a torn ACL, and an extended recovery mostly kept him off the field last season. He's got the raw tools to be a star; that's undeniable. Can he put it together? That's what the league will be watching for.

**RATING: 8**

## LINEBACKERS

Moving Jamin Davis from middle linebacker to the outside was the right call, and led to a solid season, but proved that Washington got very little value from using a first-round selection on him.

That means it will be another season without the dominant anchor Rivera has so often enjoyed in his career, whether it was Thomas Davis or Luke Kuechly. Cody Barton arrives from Seattle to fill the role, but expectations will be kept minimal for Barton's impact.

It's not a crippling issue, particularly in the modern NFL, but this is one position where Washington seems to be resigned to mediocrity.

**RATING: 6.5**

## SECONDARY

A solid group took a big leap forward in the draft by adding the play-making Emmanuel Forbes. Over the last two years, Kam Curl and Benjamin St-Juste don't have an interception. Kendall Fuller got three last year, but that's a career outlier number for him.

Still, that shouldn't take away from the solid week-in, week-out production the unit provided, especially in the uber-talented NFC East, where elite receivers are the rule, and not the exception.

What will be most interesting in 2023 is how a pair of young Commanders defensive backs develop in their second seasons. Christian Holmes and Percy Butler were both late-round draft picks that showed strong flashes during limited action. Another step forward and they could lift a pretty good unit into an excellent one.

**RATING: 6**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The bad news is the Commanders continue the never-ending quest for a decent punt and kickoff returner. The good news is it matters a lot less in the NFL these days. Antonio Gibson took some reps as the kickoff returner, and while he was slightly more electric than the revolving door of receivers that preceded him, there wasn't much to suggest that he'll become famous in the role.

With Jahan Dotson moving into an integral role offensively, and battling a hamstring injury, he didn't get much of a chance to show what he can do as a punt returner, but it's possible he turns that corner this year.

The kicking and punting games, meanwhile, appear stable behind Tress Way and Joey Slye. Way is one of the league's best, and Slye, from nearby Fredericksburg, is a solid if unspectacular option as the kicker. He's good for a touchback every time, and is consistent on field goals from 50 yards and in, though beyond that things get shaky.

**RATING: 7**

## INTANGIBLES

The sale of the team should lift a dark cloud that's hovered over FedEx Field during the past decade. Even if actual change takes time, spirits should be significantly brighter, and the crowds much larger when the season begins.

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Michael Phillips

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Divisional tests. All three other NFC East teams appear to be pushing their chips to the middle of the table in anticipation of big seasons. That's six games that will be a real fight for the Commanders, who have struggled in recent years against the Giants, but had the Eagles' number.

2. Maximizing weapons. Receiver Curtis Samuel and running back Antonio Gibson could switch titles without anybody noticing — both can do pretty much anything a skill player would be asked to do. Finding a way to use them will be key for the offense.

3. Find capable reserves. Chase Young and Montez Sweat can both dominate, but the talent level falls off after that, and backup Shaka Toney is suspended all season for gambling. They'll need to identify a backup who can keep quarterbacks antsy.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 8-8-1**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | JACKSONVILLE | 28-22 |
| Sept. 18 | at Detroit | 27-36 |
| Sept. 25 | PHILADELPHIA | 8-24 |
| Oct. 2 | at Dallas | 10-25 |
| Oct. 9 | TENNESSEE | 17-21 |
| Oct. 13 | at Chicago | 12-7 |
| Oct. 23 | GREEN BAY | 23-21 |
| Oct. 30 | at Indianapolis | 17-16 |
| Nov. 6 | MINNESOTA | 17-20 |
| Nov. 14 | at Philadelphia | 32-21 |
| Nov. 20 | at Houston | 23-10 |
| Nov. 27 | ATLANTA | 19-13 |
| Dec. 4 | at N.Y. Giants (OT) | 20-20 |
| Dec. 18 | N.Y. GIANTS | 12-20 |
| Dec. 24 | at San Francisco | 20-37 |
| Jan. 1 | CLEVELAND | 10-24 |
| Jan. 8 | DALLAS | 26-6 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Eastern**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | at Cleveland | TBD |
| Aug. 21 | BALTIMORE (Mon) | 8:15 |
| Aug. 24-27 | CINCINNATI | TBD |
| | | |
| Sept. 10 | ARIZONA | 1:00 |
| Sept. 17 | at Denver | 4:25 |
| Sept. 24 | BUFFALO | 1:00 |
| Oct. 1 | at Philadelphia | 1:00 |
| Oct. 5 | CHICAGO (Thu) | 8:15 |
| Oct. 15 | at Atlanta | 1:00 |
| Oct. 22 | at N.Y. Giants | 1:00 |
| Oct. 29 | PHILADELPHIA | 1:00 |
| Nov. 5 | at New England | 1:00 |
| Nov. 12 | at Seattle | 4:25 |
| Nov. 19 | N.Y. GIANTS | 1:00 |
| Nov. 23 | at Dallas (Thu) | 4:30 |
| Dec. 3 | MIAMI | 1:00 |
| | BYE | |
| Dec. 17 | at L.A. Rams | 4:05 |
| Dec. 24 | at N.Y. Jets | 1:00 |
| Dec. 31 | SAN FRANCISCO | 1:00 |
| TBD | DALLAS | TBD |

# It's a Different Division Without Aaron Rodgers

The Packers had 31 seasons of back-to-back Hall of Famers from 1992-2022 with Brett Favre and Aaron Rodgers. Now it's up to Jordan Love to continue the tradition. The NFC North has gone crazy. The Lions might be the best team and the Packers might be the worst. Who would have thought it?

## CHICAGO BEARS

General manager Ryan Poles faced a big decision after the Bears secured the No. 1 pick in the draft: Keep it and draft Alabama quarterback Bryce Young and trade Justin Fields or trade it and stick with Fields, who has mostly struggled in his first two years. Poles decided Fields had shown enough to believe there's a lot more and traded the pick to the Panthers at No. 9 and added a first-round pick in 2024, two second-round picks and wide receiver DJ Moore. Poles moved down one more spot in the first round and drafted Tennessee tackle Darnell Wright. In two years, Fields' starting record is 5-20 with 24 touchdowns and 21 interceptions. He has a strong arm, but so far teams only fear his legs.

## DETROIT LIONS

Is there a trendier NFC pick than the Lions? And Dan Campbell didn't even have to break anybody's kneecaps to get there. Detroit won eight of its last 10 after a 1-6 start and lost the third wild-card spot on a tie-breaker to Seattle. Jared Goff, a reclamation project acquired as part of the 2021 trade for Matthew Stafford, had an outstanding season with 4,438 yards, 29 touchdowns and only seven interceptions. They reached for Alabama running back Jahmyr Gibbs at No. 12, but reacted as if they brought back 22-year old Barry Sanders. Once third-round quarterback Hendon Hooker recovers from his torn ACL, he could develop into the steal of the draft. It hurts big-time that receiver Jameson Williams, expected to be a breakout star, was suspended the first six games for gambling. Aidan Hutchinson's engine never stopped running in the Motor City with 9.5 sacks in his rookie year.

## GREEN BAY PACKERS

It was a quiet offseason in Green Bay, right? All that happened is the Packers traded Aaron Rodgers to the Jets, handing the position to Jordan Love, a No 1 pick in 2020, who started one game and has thrown 83 passes in three years. No pressure, young man. Rodgers sat for three years behind Brett Favre before Favre retired, unretired, and was traded in 2008 to, you guessed it, the Jets. The Packers, after making the playoffs in 11 of the 15 seasons with Rodgers starting, are clearly in rebuilding mode. As the Packers make the transition to Love, head coach Matt LaFleur will rely even more on running backs Aaron Jones (1,121 yards) and AJ Dillon (770 yards). Christian Watson, who came on strong in the second half of his rookie year, is the new No. 1 receiver, replacing Allen Lazard, who preceded Rodgers to the Jets.

## MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Kirk Cousins is in the final year of his contract and anything short of the NFC Championship Game could be his ticket out of town. The Vikings have paid a lot of money to Cousins for a whole bunch of underachieving. Losing the wild-card game at home to the 9-7-1 Giants was unforgiveable. Cousins does have the luxury of playing with Justin Jefferson, arguably the best receiver in the league. Jefferson's 324 catches in his first three seasons is an NFL record. First-year head coach Kevin O'Connell was 13-4 and won the division by four games. He lived a charmed life with 11 of the victories coming by eight or fewer points.

## STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

| | Overall | Div. | 8 Non Div. | 3 Non Div. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minnesota | .497 | .392 | .471 | .780 |
| Detroit | .495 | .471 | .471 | .608 |
| Green Bay | .476 | .490 | .471 | .461 |
| Chicago | .497 | .588 | .471 | .382 |

8 Non-Div. are games vs. two common divisions;
3 Non-Div. are games vs. teams with same place in standings.

## 5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

**1. Did the Packers make a mistake trading Aaron Rodgers?**

They were ready to move on and so was he. It was just time, just like it was for Tom Brady and the Patriots in 2020. Green Bay picked up valuable draft capital (likely the Jets No. 1 in 2024) for a 39-year old quarterback coming off a down year.

**2. Dan Campbell is the most fun coach in the league. Can he be one of the best?**

His guys play hard for him. Campbell played for Bill Parcells and coached for Sean Payton and learned a lot from them. The Lions are the only team that has been around every year of the Super Bowl era not to make it to the Super Bowl. Campbell might be the coach to end that.

**3. Will the Vikings take a big tumble?**

They had the most deceiving great record in the league. They won 13 games, but had a minus-3 point differential. The Vikings defense was exposed in the playoffs by the Giants, a team without firepower. All signs point to a big step back.

**4. Does the future look bright for the Bears?**

Obviously, it's almost entirely up to Fields. They have tried to bring in more pieces to help, but next year they could really cash in. They have their own and Carolina's No. 1. They both figure to be in the top five and potentially 1-2.

**5. What's the must-see matchup?**

What a shame the Packers played the Jets last season and won't play them again until 2026 when Aaron Rodgers will likely be retired and on a lengthy darkness retreat. That makes Minnesota at Detroit the one to watch.

—Gary Myers

# CHICAGO BEARS

## Passing Progress Necessary for Fields

Losing 10 straight games to finish last season put the Bears in excellent position to help quarterback Justin Fields and a defense historically poor by franchise standards.

It was a painful trade-off, as players and fans endured the league's worst passing attack, while the defense gave up the most points for the first time since World War II.

Now it's time for the Bears to improve.

General manager Ryan Poles had the most salary-cap space and first pick of the draft at his disposal to upgrade the roster after gutting it last year for cap purposes. Whether they've done enough for immediate results against one of the league's softer schedules is the great question they face.

Head coach Matt Eberflus and staff will need to closely monitor Fields' progress as the fifth-year option on his rookie contract comes due in spring 2024.

It's been easy to blame lack of help for Fields winning only five of his first 25 starts. Hope is former Panthers receiver DJ Moore can be the missing element needed to elevate a lackluster group of pass-catchers to back Fields.

Whether enough pass-rush help exists remains a key defensive question. Only their inability to stop the run proved as problematic, but they've taken measures to solve this.

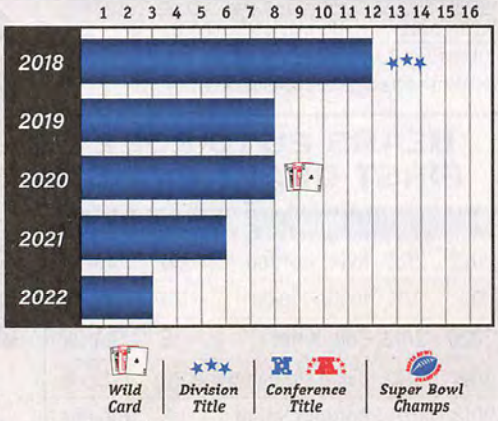
Poles and Eberflus talk extensively about the foundation laid in Year 1, but they need to start laying victories over it to satisfy an ownership that's attempting to build an expensive new suburban stadium.

**Justin Fields**
Photo by Joe Robbins

**4**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 3-14
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 0-6
**STADIUM:** Soldier Field
**CAPACITY:** 61,500
**SURFACE:** Grass

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

HALAS HALL
1920 FOOTBALL DRIVE
LAKE FOREST, IL 60045
(847) 295-6600
WWW.CHICAGOBEARS.COM

**TRAINING CAMP:** Halas Hall, Lake Forest, IL
**HEAD COACH:** Matt Eberflus
- 2nd season as Bears/NFL head coach
- 3-14 overall

**CHAIRMAN:** George H. McCaskey
**PRESIDENT/CEO:** Kevin Warren
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Ryan Poles
**ASSISTANT GM:** Ian Cunningham
**CO-DIRECTORS PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Trey Koziol, Jeff King
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Breck Ackley
**ASST. DIR. PRO SCOUTING:** Chris White

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Luke Getsy | Offensive coordinator | 9 | 2 |
| Andrew Janocko | Quarterbacks | 9 | 2 |
| Omar Young | Asst. QBs/receiver | 4 | 2 |
| Chris Morgan | Offensive line | 15 | 2 |
| Luke Steckel | Assistant line | 16 | 2 |
| David Walker | Running backs | 9 | 2 |
| Tyke Tolbert | *Receivers | 21 | 2 |
| Jim Dray | Tight ends | 4 | 2 |
| Tim Zetts | Assistant tight ends | 3 | 2 |
| Zach Cable | Off. quality control | 5 | 1 |
| Alan Williams | Defensive coordinator | 22 | 12 |
| Travis Smith | Defensive line | 12 | 2 |
| Justin Hinds | Assistant line | 2 | 2 |
| Dave Borgonzi | Linebackers | 12 | 2 |
| Jon Hoke | @Cornerbacks | 19 | 7 |
| Andre Curtis | Safeties | 18 | 2 |
| David Overstreet II | Asst. defensive backs | 6 | 2 |
| Kevin Koch | Def. quality control | 2 | 2 |
| Richard Hightower | Special teams coord. | 17 | 3 |
| Carlos Polk | Asst. special teams | 12 | 2 |
| Jim Arthur | Head S&C | 22 | 13 |
| Noble Landry | Asst. S&C | 3 | 2 |
| Pierre Ngo | Asst. S&C | 10 | 7 |
| Isaiah Harris | S&C | 2 | 2 |
| Brent Salazar | Dir. high performance | 13 | 2 |

*Offensive pass game coordinator
@Defensive pass game coordinator

## BEARS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 2/39 | Kyler Gordon | CB | Starter |
| 2021 | 1/11 | Justin Fields | QB | Starter |
| 2020 | 2/43 | Cole Kmet | TE | Starter |
| 2019 | 3/73 | David Montgomery | RB | Lions |
| 2018 | 1/8 | Roquan Smith | LB | Ravens |

## COACHING

Eberflus' principle aim is to create turnovers on defense while limiting them on offense. It partially succeeded, but they still must reduce their own turnovers. Eberflus and defensive coordinator Alan Williams show signs of altering their 4-3, Tampa-2 style, after trading off speed for bigger run-stuffers to avoid numerous indefensible down-and-distance situations they faced last year. Offensive coordinator Luke Getsy has displayed the ability to adapt his system to Fields' mobility, but addressing passing needs is the priority without rendering their attack too complicated for their quarterback.

**RATING: 7**

## QUARTERBACKS

Over the last nine games, Fields showed obvious improvement in accuracy and passer efficiency statistics, even with a struggling, injured receiver group. Now he has better receivers, so he needs to get the ball out of his hand faster and let them make the yardage and points. His remarkable 1,143 rushing yards must decrease while point production increases. The way to do this is let others work. Fields doesn't necessarily need to be a pocket passer, but must be better at this. He has admitted his greatest problem is choosing and then executing simple dump-off passes rather than always attempting big strikes. P.J. Walker gives them a backup with a skill set more similar to Fields, without the speed. Third-stringer Nathan Peterman adds little more than system experience.

**RATING: 7**

## RUNNING BACKS

It's not the rushing yardage they must make up for with the departure of free agent David Montgomery to Detroit. From among Khalil Herbert, D'Onta Foreman, rookie Roschon Johnson and third-down back Travis Homer, they must find one back versatile enough to run, pass-block and catch so their offense is less predictable. The ingredients are there, but not necessarily contained within one player like with Montgomery — unless Herbert improves in the passing game or Johnson is very advanced as a rookie. Johnson backed up Bijan Robinson in college so his true skill set could be on display for the first time. Herbert is a big-play threat as the NFL leader for yards per carry (5.7) last year. Like Herbert, Foreman has an efficient

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

It has been over a decade since the Bears last won a playoff game. For perspective, Jay Cutler was the quarterback. The reality check is that QB Justin Fields is the best signal-caller the team has had since then. GM Ryan Poles has built a solid young nucleus around him, orchestrating several deals during his brief tenure and converting the No. 1 overall pick into a slew of additional key parts. One acquisition made at the trade deadline was the addition of WR **Chase Claypool**, who was underwhelming to say the least. Chicago is banking on a full offseason of cohesion with Fields to help convert him back to the "Mapletron" form we saw early on in his Pittsburgh career. At linebacker, Poles has remade the entire unit since dealing off All-Pro Roquan Smith. Veterans **Tremaine Edwards** and **T.J. Edwards** were signed in free agency. However, one key player flying under the radar entering 2023 is **Jack Sanborn.** An undrafted rookie in 2022, Sanborn stepped into the starter role once Smith was dealt and proved capable, registering 64 tackles — he looks to be the unsung hero on defense. ... A lot was asked of last year's first round pick, CB **Kyler Gordon.** While Year 1 was a bit of a roller-coaster ride, Gordon provided enough glimpses to ensure one of the starting jobs to begin the year.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

JUSTIN FIELDS

Despite confidence expressed by general manager Ryan Poles and head coach Matt Eberflus, Fields must deliver this season. Improvement in 2022 was obvious, but still Fields failed to finish final drives in losses to Atlanta, Detroit, Washington, Miami and Minnesota. The supporting cast failed Fields at times, but he struggled in the short passing game, doesn't see open receivers and runs too much. Now the Bears obviously have an improved receiver corps and possibly a better offensive line. With Fields' fifth-year option due next offseason, and the Bears owning two first-round picks in the 2024 draft, they easily could maneuver for a different quarterback if Fields fails to measure up to standards.

Darnell Mooney
Photo by Joe Robbins

running style very conducive to their wide-zone blocking scheme.

**RATING: 6.5**

## RECEIVERS

Moore has potential to elevate the offense in many ways. He can be the go-to target Fields has lacked. The Bears ranked last in yards after the catch two straight years and Moore excels at this. He's also a strong intermediate receiver, an area of passing strength for Fields. Pro Football Focus tracked Fields at 66.7 percent completions when throwing 10-to-19 yards, tops in the NFL. Moore's 172 targets in that range was second in the league from 2019-22. Add all this with an ability to get open deep and Moore removes pressure from other receivers. Darnell Mooney can go back to the role he did best, when he had less defensive attention as No. 2 or 3 receiver.

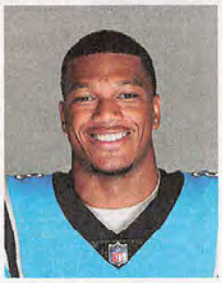
Chase Claypool never had a chance to show what he can do in this offense after arriving at mid-season. He should know the plays well now and will be deployed more downfield than when Pittsburgh tried making him into a slot target. There is depth, including Velus Jones Jr.'s speed/strength potential and speedy rookie slot Tyler Scott. Robert Tonyan was an ideal addition as a move tight end with a reputation for good hands. He complements in-line tight end Cole Kmet, who enters a contract season after proving his value as a red-zone threat.

**RATING: 7.5**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The offseason settled their tackle situation with first-round pick Darnell Wright expected to play immediately after he was a college right tackle. Braxton Jones can remain on the left side, where he excelled as a rookie. Signing Titans free-agent right guard Nate Davis gave them another experienced starter from a similar blocking scheme. Questions

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES



**KEY ADDITION:**
**WR DJ Moore**
Moore brings Bears yards after the catch, as well as a knack for making contested catches. He could be the franchise's top overall receiver since Brandon Marshall, making Justin Fields' job easier.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**
DT Andrew Billings, LB Dylan Cole, G Nate Davis, LB Tremaine Edmunds, LB T.J. Edwards, RB D'Onta Foreman, DE Rasheem Green, RB Travis Homer, DE DeMarcus Walker, TE Robert Tonyan, QB P.J. Walker

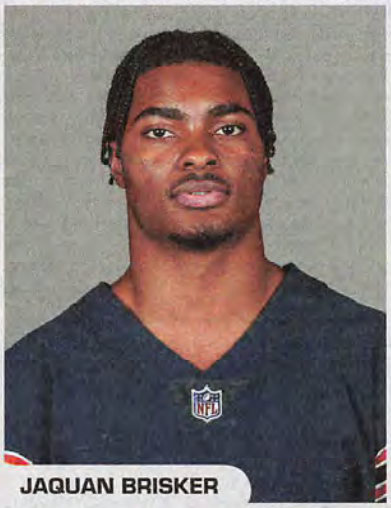
**KEY LOSS:**
**RB David Montgomery (16/16)***
Montgomery did more for the Bears than carry the football, and even more than catch and block. They will be hard-pressed to replace his impact in the locker room and huddle.

**OTHER LOSSES:**
LB Matthew Adams (10/3), DT Angelo Blackson (15/4), CB Breon Borders (1/0), QB Tim Boyle (1/0), S Dane Cruikshank (8/0), G Dakota Dozier (0/0), RB Darrynton Evans (6/0), TE Ryan Griffin (15/0), CB Harrison Hand (4/1), WR N'Keal Harry (7/0), S DeAndre Houston-Carson (17/6), LB Elijah Lee (3/0), **LB Nicholas Morrow (17/17), DE Al-Quadin Muhammad (16/9), C Sam Mustipher (17/16),** DT Mike Pennel (17/2), WR Byron Pringle (11/4), **T Riley Reiff (16/10),** G Michael Schofield (11/5), QB Trevor Siemian (2/1), **LB Joe Thomas (15/9), DT Armon Watts (17/13),** TE Trevon Wesco (14/1), LB Javin White (0/0)*
**Total games played/started lost: 256/117**

**STARTERS RETURNING**
15: 8 offense, 7 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS



JAQUAN BRISKER

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | YDS | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Justin Fields | 318 | 192 | 2242 | 17 | 11 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Justin Fields | 160 | 1143 | 7.1 | 8 |
| David Montgomery | 201 | 801 | 4.0 | 5 |
| Khalil Herbert | 129 | 731 | 5.7 | 4 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cole Kmet | 50 | 544 | 10.9 | 7 |
| Darnell Mooney | 40 | 493 | 12.3 | 2 |
| Equanimeous St. Brown | 21 | 323 | 15.4 | 1 |
| David Montgomery | 34 | 316 | 9.3 | 1 |

**Kicking:** Santos 27/32 XPs, 21/23 FGz, 90 points
**Tackles:** Morrow 116, Brisker 103, Smith 83
**Sacks:** Brisker 4, Jones 3, Gipson 3
**INTs:** Jackson 4, Gordon 3, Smith 2

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 307.8 | 28 |
| Passing Offense | 130.5 | 32 |
| Rushing Offense | 177.3 | 1 |
| Points | 19.2 | 23 |
| Sacked | 58 | 29 |
| 3rd Down % | 40.9 | 13 |

| Defense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Defense | 375.9 | 29 |
| Passing Defense | 218.6 | 17 |
| Rushing Defense | 157.3 | 31 |
| Points Allowed | 27.2 | 32 |
| INTs | 14 | T-12 |
| Sacks | 20 | 32 |
| Turnover Diff. | -2 | T-20 |

# BEARS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **10** | **Claypool, Chase** | **6-4** | **238** | **4** | **Notre Dame** | **16/12/0/1** | **T,PITT 22** | **D2 PITT 20** | **A true big, fast X-receiver who should arrive at camp with a chip on his shoulder.** |
| 82 | Fountain, Daurice | 6-1 | 210 | 4 | Northern Iowa | 0/0/0/1 | FA 23 | D5 IND 18 | Played for both Matt Eberflus' and Ryan Poles' old teams before he came to the Bears. |
| 12 | Jones Jr., Velus (RS) | 6-0 | 200 | 2 | Tennessee | 12/2/0/5 | D3 22 | D3 CHI 22 | Speed and power are there, but he needs to gain better understanding of receiver role. |
| **85** | **Kmet, Cole (TE)** | **6-6** | **260** | **4** | **Notre Dame** | **17/17** | **D2 20** | **D2 CHI 20** | **First his blocking improved and then his red-zone receiving. A complete tight end.** |
| **11** | ***Mooney, Darnell** | **5-11** | **173** | **4** | **Tulane** | **12/12/0/0** | **D5 20** | **D5 CHI 20** | **If he's over the ankle surgery, it's time to prove that he deserves second contract.** |
| **2** | **Moore, DJ** | **5-11** | **210** | **6** | **Maryland** | **17/17** | **T,CARO 23** | **D1 CARO 18** | **Was possibly NFL's most underrated receiver and had big numbers in bad QB situation.** |
| 86 | Pettis, Dante | 6-1 | 195 | 6 | Washington | 17/7 | FA 22 | D2 SF 18 | Provided depth and special-teams help last year, but roster competition is amped up. |
| 19 | St. Brown, Equanimeous | 6-5 | 214 | 6 | Notre Dame | 16/16/0/1 | UFA,GB 22 | D6 GB 18 | Blocking skill, good system knowledge got him a new contract, but needs more catches. |
| 13 | Scott, Tyler | 5-11 | 185 | R | Cincinnati | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 CHI 23 | Undersized rookie whose quickness helps with catches, but is also a solid punt gunner. |
| 81 | Tonges, Jake (TE) | 6-4 | 240 | 2 | California | 4/0/0/6 | FA 23 | CFA CHI 22 | Flashed good hands and ability to get open last camp and can handle backup fullback. |
| 18 | Tonyan, Robert (TE) | 6-5 | 237 | 6 | Indiana State | 17/3 | UFA,GB 23 | CFA DET 17 | True receiving threat and proved it with 54 catches coming back from knee surgery. |
| 83 | Webster, Nsimba (RS) | 5-10 | 180 | 4 | Eastern Washington | 2/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA LAR 19 | Practice-squad long shot who has hung on a few years as undersized backup return man. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 75 | Borom, Larry (T) | 6-5 | 333 | 3 | Missouri | 13/9/1/3 | D5 21 | D5 CHI 21 | Ideal role is swing guard-tackle. Adequate fill-in at four spots, but not a starter. |
| 69 | Carter, Ja'Tyre (T/G) | 6-3 | 311 | 2 | Southern | 3/0/3/11 | D7 22 | D7 CHI 22 | Very green, got on field only 31 plays in a year when backup guard help was needed. |
| **64** | ***Davis, Nate (RG)** | **6-3** | **316** | **5** | **North Carolina-Charlotte** | **12/12/0/2** | **UFA,TENN 23** | **D3 TENN 19** | **Excellent wide-zone blocker after he did it for Derrick Henry four years with Titans.** |
| 60 | Elselen, Dieter (G) | 6-4 | 320 | 2 | Yale | 11/0/1/0 | FA 22 | CFA CHI 20 | Finally got to play after laboring two years on practice squad. Has a long way to go. |
| **76** | ***Jenkins, Teven (LG)** | **6-6** | **321** | **3** | **Oklahoma State** | **13/11/1/2** | **D2 21** | **D2 CHI 21** | **Excelled when put at right guard, but must prove himself over again on the left side.** |
| **70** | **Jones, Braxton (LT)** | **6-5** | **310** | **2** | **Southern Utah** | **17/17** | **D5 22** | **D5 CHI 22** | **Rated as one of last year's draft steals, but still must learn to stop the bull rush.** |
| 68 | *Kramer, Doug (C) | 6-2 | 300 | 2 | Illinois | 0/0/0/0 | D6 22 | D6 CHI 22 | Sat out all season with a training camp foot injury after he showed some promise. |
| 72 | Leatherwood, Alex (G/T) | 6-5 | 312 | 3 | Alabama | 4/0/2/5 | W,LV 22 | D1 LV 21 | Gets a true chance to prove himself after arriving too late to make a real impact. |
| 62 | *Patrick, Lucas (G) | 6-3 | 313 | 7 | Duke | 7/5/0/0 | UFA,GB 22 | CFA GB 16 | Based on expectations for him before injuries, could be a surprise starting center. |
| **65** | **Whitehair, Cody (C)** | **6-3** | **316** | **8** | **Kansas State** | **12/12/0/1** | **D2 16** | **D2 CHI 16** | **Highest paid offensive lineman as 31-year-old veteran; not a real secure position.** |
| **58** | **Wright, Darnell (RT)** | **6-6** | **335** | **R** | **Tennessee** | **0/0** | **D1 23** | **D1 CHI 23** | **Has athleticism to go with his size, but his strongest point might be pass blocking.** |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 35 | Blasingame, Khari (FB) | 6-0 | 233 | 5 | Vanderbilt | 16/6/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA MINN 19 | Excellent run blocking boosted No. 1 rushing attack, but can he help in other ways? |
| 25 | Ebner, Trestan | 5-11 | 206 | 2 | Baylor | 17/0 | D6 22 | D6 CHI 22 | Did little last year besides special teams and his roster spot is being challenged. |
| 21 | Foreman, D'Onta | 6-0 | 235 | 6 | Texas | 17/9 | UFA,CARO 23 | D3 HOUS 17 | Runs with speed, power and a one-cut style that helps, but he hasn't stayed healthy. |
| **24** | **Herbert, Khalil** | **5-9** | **212** | **3** | **Virginia Tech** | **13/1/0/0** | **D6 21** | **D6 CHI 21** | **Now starting after proving he's a breakaway threat; must improve receiving skills.** |
| 20 | *Homer, Travis | 5-10 | 202 | 5 | Miami | 9/1/0/2 | UFA,SEA 23 | D6 SEA 19 | Third-down back who can help greatly on special teams if he finally stays healthy. |
| 30 | Johnson, Roschon | 6-0 | 225 | R | Texas | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 CHI 23 | Started out as a QB at Texas, so expect Luke Getsy to find creative ways to use that. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **1** | **Fields, Justin** | **6-3** | **228** | **3** | **Ohio State** | **15/15/0/2** | **D1 21** | **D1 CHI 21** | **Second year in an offense for first time since college should shorten time to throw.** |
| 14 | Peterman, Nathan | 6-2 | 225 | 7 | Pittsburgh | 3/1/3/0 | FA 22 | D5 BUFF 17 | Could get a real challenge for the third QB position from Division II Troy Bagent. |
| 15 | Walker, P.J. | 5-11 | 216 | 4 | Temple | 6/5/9/2 | FA 23 | CFA IND 17 | Once he learns the offense, he must stay healthier than Trevor Siemian did last year. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 73 | Bell, Travis (T) | 6-0 | 310 | R | Kennesaw State | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 CHI 23 | High character and strong work ethic make him a coaching favorite, but he needs more. |
| **97** | **Billings, Andrew (T)** | **6-1** | **311** | **7** | **Baylor** | **14/14/0/3** | **UFA,LV 23** | **D4 CIN 16** | **His goal is to keep blockers off 3-technique in this scheme and he's ideal for it.** |
| 92 | Brown, Andrew (T) | 6-3 | 296 | 3 | Virginia | 5/0/0/0 | FA 22 | D5 CIN 18 | Hasn't played more than seven games since 2019, but size is ideal for this scheme. |
| 98 | Dexter Sr., Gervon (T) | 6-6 | 312 | R | Florida | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 CHI 23 | Sack stats don't testify to his all-around play last year, but needs to get to QBs. |
| **99** | **Gipson, Trevis (E)** | **6-4** | **263** | **4** | **Tulsa** | **17/10** | **D5 20** | **D5 CHI 20** | **Very tall 3-technique who must show disruptive consistency and display better power.** |
| 94 | Green, Rasheem (E) | 6-4 | 279 | 6 | Southern Cal | 16/5/0/1 | UFA,HOUS 23 | D3 SEA 18 | Produces pass-rush pressure, but needs to finish more; a strong addition to rotation. |
| 95 | Holmes, Jalyn (E) | 6-5 | 283 | 4 | Ohio State | 1/0/0/0 | FA 22 | D4 MINN 18 | Former Vikings fourth-rounder who never panned out; experienced practice-squad type. |
| **93** | **Jones, Justin (T)** | **6-3** | **309** | **6** | **North Carolina State** | **17/17** | **UFA,LAC 22** | **D3 LAC 18** | **Should improve greatly supported by better linebackers, but needs to close pass rush.** |
| 52 | Lewis, Terrell (E) | 6-5 | 262 | 4 | Alabama | 11/3/0/3 | FA 22 | D3 LAR 20 | Back injury led to departure from Rams; he's actually a defensive end in this scheme. |
| 96 | Pickens, Zacch (T) | 6-4 | 300 | R | South Carolina | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 CHI 23 | Squat, quick, powerful tackle who challenges in gaps, but needs pass-rush refinement. |
| 91 | Robinson, Dominique (E) | 6-5 | 253 | 2 | Miami, Ohio | 17/7 | D5 22 | D5 CHI 22 | Fast start last year quickly disintegrated and he needs to show signs of progress. |
| **95** | **Walker, DeMarcus (E)** | **6-4** | **280** | **7** | **Florida State** | **17/6** | **UFA,TENN 23** | **D2 CLV 17** | **Another dual-purpose edge player, but he did his best pass rushing at 3-technique.** |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 55 | Cole, Dylan (O) | 6-0 | 240 | 6 | Missouri State | 15/8/0/2 | UFA,TENN 23 | CFA HOUS 17 | Special-teams leader; flashed tackling skills in first real chance to start in 2022. |
| **49** | **Edmunds, Tremaine (M)** | **6-5** | **250** | **6** | **Virginia Tech** | **13/13/0/3** | **UFA,BUFF 23** | **D1 BUFF 18** | **Playmaker ideally suited to Brian Urlacher cover-2 role with height and long arms.** |
| **53** | **Edwards, T.J. (O)** | **6-1** | **242** | **5** | **Wisconsin** | **17/17** | **UFA,PHA 23** | **CFA PHA 19** | **Solid, but question is whether he is legitimate weak-side playmaker scheme demands.** |
| 43 | Gates, DeMarquis (M) | 6-2 | 221 | 1 | Mississippi | 3/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA CLV 18 | Journeyman practice-squad type; played in several pro leagues without a breakthrough. |
| **57** | ***Sanborn, Jack (O)** | **6-2** | **234** | **2** | **Wisconsin** | **14/6/0/0** | **CFA 22** | **CFA CHI 22** | **Surprise undrafted player who showed ability to attack downhill as starter last year.** |
| 44 | Sewell, Noah (M) | 6-2 | 253 | R | Oregon | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 CHI 23 | Football family background helps and has ability to fit three linebacker positions. |
| 50 | Weatherford, Sterling (O) | 6-4 | 224 | 2 | Miami, Ohio | 14/0/0/3 | W,IND 22 | CFA IND 22 | One of several young defensive players who must make strides at camp to keep a job. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 39 | *Blackwell, Josh (CB) | 5-11 | 180 | 2 | Duke | 16/1/0/0 | W,PHA 22 | CFA PHA 22 | Backup waiver acquisition who showed promise when pressed into starting slot duties. |
| **9** | **Brisker, Jaquan (S)** | **6-1** | **200** | **2** | **Penn State** | **15/15/0/2** | **D2 22** | **D2 CHI 22** | **A hitter who didn't get many chances to flash coverage skills he's said to have.** |
| 23 | Colbert, Adrian (S) | 6-2 | 205 | 6 | Miami | 2/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D7 SF 17 | Has a shot at roster with his sixth NFL team due to shortage of experienced safeties. |
| **6** | **Gordon, Kyler (CB)** | **6-0** | **200** | **2** | **Washington** | **14/14/0/3** | **D2 22** | **D2 CHI 22** | **Still needs to prove he's physical enough to be a slot corner, but has the quickness.** |
| 37 | Hicks, Elijah (S) | 5-11 | 200 | 2 | California | 15/2/0/2 | D7 22 | D7 CHI 22 | Allowed two TD passes in limited rookie play; has plenty to prove to stay on roster. |
| **4** | ***Jackson, Eddie (S)** | **6-0** | **206** | **6** | **Alabama** | **12/12/0/0** | **D4 17** | **D4 CHI 17** | **Foot injury wasn't severe enough for surgery. Will quickly resume leadership role.** |
| **33** | ***Johnson, Jaylon (CB)** | **6-0** | **196** | **4** | **Utah** | **11/11/0/3** | **D2 20** | **D2 CHI 20** | **Secondary is good enough so he no longer must cover best receiver all over the field.** |
| 31 | Jones, Jaylon (CB) | 5-11 | 190 | 2 | Mississippi | 16/4/0/1 | CFA 22 | CFA CHI 22 | Taller with good reach; he showed he could handle coverage assignments as a backup. |
| 26 | Ojemudia, Michael (CB) | 6-1 | 200 | 4 | Iowa | 5/0/1/6 | W,DEN 22 | D3 DEN 20 | Veteran street free agent they really needed during an injury outbreak, but not now. |
| 32 | Smith, Terell (CB) | 6-0 | 207 | R | Minnesota | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 CHI 23 | Four-year starter with the speed, height and reach coaches look for on the boundary. |
| 29 | Stevenson, Tyrique (CB) | 6-0 | 204 | R | Miami | 0/0 | D2 23 | D3 CHI 23 | Tall, fast and adept in man or zone; he bounced back after a rough college start. |
| 27 | Stroman Jr., Greg (CB) | 5-11 | 180 | 4 | Virginia Tech | 2/1/0/0 | FA 23 | D7 WSH 18 | Excellent play in preseason failed to win him a spot but later they brought him back. |
| 38 | Thomas, A.J. | 6-2 | 214 | 1 | Western Michigan | 5/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA CHI 22 | His size is unique for safeties on roster, but he hasn't shown he can use this edge. |
| 22 | *Vildor, Kindle (CB) | 5-11 | 189 | 4 | Georgia Southern | 11/9/1/2 | D5 20 | D5 CHI 20 | Made strides early last year before fading; needs fast start to keep his roster spot. |
| 36 | Williamson, Kendall (S) | 6-0 | 203 | R | Stanford | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 CHI 23 | Sharp hitter type who fits better at strong safety. Had his first pick in fifth year. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | Gill, Trenton (P) | 6-4 | 219 | 2 | North Carolina State | 17/0 | D7 22 | D7 CHI 22 | Biggest contribution he made wasn't his solid distance, but was consistent hang time. |
| 8 | Santos, Cairo (K) | 5-8 | 175 | 9 | Tulane | 16/0/0/1 | FA 20 | CFA KC 14 | His 90.6-percent field-goal accuracy last three years is nothing to take too lightly. |
| 48 | Scales, Patrick (LS) | 6-3 | 226 | 8 | Utah State | 17/0 | FA 19 | CFA BLT 12 | Longest-tenured player on team at age 35; he dates back to start of Ryan Pace GM era. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; SD=Supplemental Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Aron Cruickshank (Rutgers), Joe Reed (2, Virginia), Thyrick Pitts (Delaware); TEs Chase Allen (1, Iowa State), Damien Caffrey (Stony Brook); Ts Nick Amoah (California-Davis), Kellen Diesch (1, Arizona State), Bobby Haskins (Southern Cal), Gabe Houy (Pittsburgh), Roy Mbaeteka (1, None), Lorenz Metz (Cincinnati); FB Robert Burns (Connecticut); QB Tyson Bagent (Shepherd); DE Jalen Harris (Arizona); DT Donovan Jeter (1, Michigan); LBs Micah Baskerville (Louisiana State), Kuony Deng (1, California); Ss Justin Brolles (Oklahoma), Macon Clark (Tulane); K Andre Szmyt (Syracuse); P Ryan Anderson (1, Rutgers)

revolve around center and left guard. Teven Jenkins makes the move from right guard to left only a year after moving from tackle to guard. And veteran Cody Whitehair is going back from left guard to center, where he made a Pro Bowl but hasn't played in two-plus seasons. It's a deeper group supported by experienced backups Lucas Patrick, Alex Leatherwood and Larry Borom. Starters and backups alike must take a step forward as pass blockers after Fields was sacked 91 times in two years.

**RATING: 6.5**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Although the Bears didn't draft defensive ends, they did bring in free agents who can defend the run. DeMarcus Walker has ability to flip to 3-technique tackle from the edge, versatility Eberflus likes in ends. Rasheem Green played in a similar system for Houston and is also stout against the run. Trevis Gipson and Dominique Robinson both achieved pressure last year, but need to show they can get off blocks for sacks. The scheme requires a strong 3-technique and veteran Justin Jones could be better at it this year when supported by massive nose tackle Andrew Billings. Rookie tackles Zacch Pickens and Gervon Dexter Sr. add size and athleticism at either interior line spot.

**RATING: 6.5**

## LINEBACKERS

This is easily the most improved position group. Free-agent acquisitions Tremaine Edmunds and T.J. Edwards ranked among the league's top coverage linebackers according to PFF grades. Edmunds' long arms and height put him in the Brian Urlacher role of Tampa-2 middle linebacker, while Edwards gets the weak side, attacking off their 3-technique. Their strong side will either be undrafted Jack Sanborn, veteran backup Dylan Cole or fifth-round rookie Noah Sewell, brother of Lions tackle Penei.

**RATING: 8**

## SECONDARY

Safety Eddie Jackson adapted quickly to this defense and seemed headed for a Pro Bowl until a season-ending foot injury. Jaquan Brisker's rookie emergence in a strong-safety role let Jackson stay in center field, and they'll work this way again. The addition of rookie cornerback Tyrique Stevenson completes a set of three starting second-round draft picks at the position. Jaylon Johnson will be on the right side, Kyler Gordon in the slot and Stevenson on the left side. Gordon's playmaking ability became apparent as his rookie season ended. Johnson enters a contract year as their most dependable cornerback when he plays, but injuries have been an issue. Injuries forced rookie backups Josh Blackwell, Jaylon Jones and Elijah Hicks to play last year, so there is experienced depth.

**RATING: 7.5**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

After five missed extra points, kicker Cairo Santos must bear down on shorter kicks as well as on field goals. He ranks as the most accurate field-goal kicker in franchise history as he begins a contract year. Punter Trenton Gill was a pleasant surprise with a 46.0-yard average, third best in team history. Long snapping remains in the capable veteran hands of Patrick Scales. Their only question seems to be punt returns because Velus Jones Jr. flourished returning kicks in last season's second half. Dante Pettis capably fielded punts, but needs to do more with them to retain the job.

**RATING: 7.5**

## INTANGIBLES

While the Bears suffered from pure inexperience last year, it's more lineup instability in their rebuild's second year that could initially hold them back. They weeded out unwanted starters, but have four offensive linemen who weren't at these starting positions last year, a different starting wide receiver, a new starting running back, two or even three new linebackers, a new starting cornerback and possibly two different starting defensive linemen. Poles improved their overall star power, but blending new faces together can take time.

**RATING: Minus-1**

— Gene Chamberlain

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Better interior pass rush. It's critical because they're counting on this to also help improve their edge rush. Inside heat forces quarterbacks to move outside toward edge rushers or throw outside, and this gives cornerbacks more time to make plays on the ball.

2. More effective screen passes. The line they've put together can move better than last year's did to get in front of receivers and backs. Plus, wide-receiver screens should work better with DJ Moore as this has been one of his strong suits.

3. More long touchdown drives. When they lacked the downfield threat from legitimate NFL receivers, they scored on big runs or not at all. Defenses will need to back off their receivers more now fearing big passing gains and they'll start driving the ball.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 3-14**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | SAN FRANCISCO | 19-10 |
| Sept. 18 | at Green Bay | 10-27 |
| Sept. 25 | HOUSTON | 23-20 |
| Oct. 2 | at N.Y. Giants | 12-20 |
| Oct. 9 | at Minnesota | 22-29 |
| Oct. 13 | WASHINGTON | 7-12 |
| Oct. 24 | at New England | 33-14 |
| Oct. 30 | at Dallas | 29-49 |
| Nov. 6 | MIAMI | 32-35 |
| Nov. 13 | DETROIT | 30-31 |
| Nov. 20 | at Atlanta | 24-27 |
| Nov. 27 | at N.Y. Jets | 10-31 |
| Dec. 4 | GREEN BAY | 19-28 |
| Dec. 18 | PHILADELPHIA | 20-25 |
| Dec. 24 | BUFFALO | 13-35 |
| Jan. 1 | at Detroit | 10-41 |
| Jan. 8 | MINNESOTA | 13-29 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Central**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | TENNESSEE | TBD |
| Aug. 19 | at Indianapolis (Sat) | 6:00 |
| Aug. 24-27 | BUFFALO | TBD |
| Sept. 10 | GREEN BAY | 3:25 |
| Sept. 17 | at Tampa Bay | 12:00 |
| Sept. 24 | at Kansas City | 3:25 |
| Oct. 1 | DENVER | 12:00 |
| Oct. 5 | at Washington (Thu) | 7:15 |
| Oct. 15 | MINNESOTA | 12:00 |
| Oct. 22 | LAS VEGAS | 12:00 |
| Oct. 29 | at L.A. Chargers | 7:20 |
| Nov. 5 | at New Orleans | 12:00 |
| Nov. 9 | CAROLINA (Thu) | 7:15 |
| Nov. 19 | at Detroit | 12:00 |
| Nov. 27 | at Minnesota (Mon) | 7:15 |
| | BYE | |
| Dec. 10 | DETROIT | 12:00 |
| Dec. 16/17 | at Cleveland | TBD |
| Dec. 24 | ARIZONA | 3:25 |
| Dec. 31 | ATLANTA | 12:00 |
| TBD | at Green Bay | TBD |

# DETROIT LIONS

## The Roar in Detroit is for Real

Some teams raise banners. Others are the Lions, and have to paint the years since they last won something in giant numbers across the back wall of their team meeting room, offering a hard reminder they haven't won a division title since 1993, haven't won a playoff game since 1991, and still haven't won an NFL championship since 1957.

With the way this rebuild is going, that wall might need a new paint job soon.

The Lions put the youngest roster on the field last year, yet still went 5-1 against the division, won eight of their final 10 games overall and came within a tiebreaker of an improbable playoff berth. Now, eight starters are back from an offense that ranked No. 4 in the league, and so is bright young play-caller Ben Johnson. Adding more pass-catchers like running back Jahmyr Gibbs and tight end Sam LaPorta in the top 34 picks of the draft won't hurt, either.

Detroit also hammered its league-worst defense in free agency, signing projected starters like Cam Sutton, C.J. Gardner-Johnson and Emmanuel Moseley, before adding the best linebacker (Jack Campbell) and safety (Brian Branch) in the draft.

With Aaron Rodgers now in New York, the NFC North is more wide open than ever. Perhaps no one is more poised to run through that window than Detroit.

"It's time to win," linebacker Alex Anzalone said. "There are no excuses going forward. There is no rebuild. There's nothing like that. It's just time to go."

**Jared Goff**
Photo by Joe Robbins

**1**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 9-8

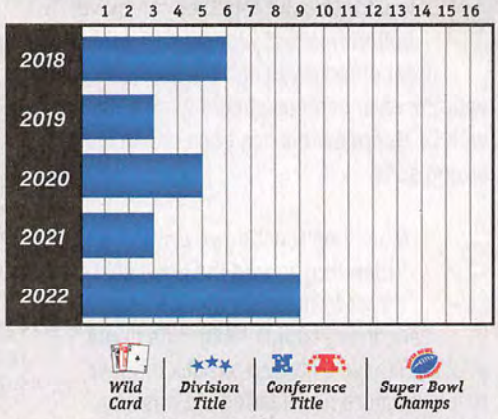
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 5-1

**STADIUM:** Ford Field (Dome)

**CAPACITY:** 64,500

**SURFACE:** FieldTurf CORE

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

222 REPUBLIC DRIVE
ALLEN PARK, MI 48101
(313) 216-4000
WWW.DETROITLIONS.COM

**TRAINING CAMP:** Lions Headquarters and Training Facility; Allen Park, MI
**HEAD COACH:** Dan Campbell
- 3rd season as Lions/NFL head coach
- 12-21-1 overall

**PRINCIPAL OWNER/CHAIRMAN:** Sheila Hamp
**PRESIDENT/CEO:** Rod Wood
**EVP/GENERAL MANAGER:** Brad Holmes
**ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER:** Ray Agnew
**SR. DIR. PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Lance Newmark
**SR. PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE:** John Dorsey
**DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:** Rob Lohman
**DIR. SCOUTING ADVANCEMENT:** Mike Martin

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ben Johnson | Offensive coordinator | 12 | 5 |
| Jim Hostler | Sr. offensive assistant | 24 | 1 |
| Mark Brunell | Quarterbacks | 3 | 3 |
| J.T. Barrett | Asst. quarterbacks | 2 | 2 |
| Tanner Engstrand | Passing game coord. | 4 | 4 |
| Hank Fraley | Offensive line | 9 | 6 |
| Steve Oliver | Assistant line | 3 | 3 |
| Antwaan Randle El | Receivers | 5 | 3 |
| Seth Ryan | Asst. receivers | 7 | 3 |
| Steve Heiden | Tight ends | 11 | 1 |
| Scottie Montgomery | *Running backs | 6 | 1 |
| Aaron Glenn | Defensive coordinator | 10 | 3 |
| John Fox | Sr. defensive assistant | 31 | 1 |
| John Scott Jr. | Defensive line | 3 | 1 |
| Cameron Davis | Assistant line | 2 | 2 |
| Kelvin Sheppard | Linebackers | 3 | 3 |
| Shaun Dion Hamilton | Asst. linebackers | 2 | 2 |
| Brian Duker | Defensive backs | 8 | 3 |
| Dre Bly | Cornerbacks | 1 | 1 |
| Dave Corrao | Def. assistant/OLB | 14 | 6 |
| Wayne Blair | Def. quality control | 2 | 2 |
| Dre Thompson | WCF minority asst./DQC | 2 | 1 |
| Dave Fipp | Special teams coord. | 16 | 3 |
| Jett Modkins | Asst. special teams | 4 | 3 |
| Mike Clark | Dir. sports performance | 16 | 3 |
| Josh Schuler | Head S&C | 8 | 8 |
| Jill Costanza | Dir. sports science | 3 | 3 |

*Assistant head coach

## LIONS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/2 | Aidan Hutchinson | DE | Starter |
| 2021 | 1/7 | Penei Sewell | T | Starter |
| 2020 | 1/3 | Jeff Okudah | CB | Falcons |
| 2019 | 1/8 | T.J. Hockenson | TE | Vikings |
| 2018 | 1/20 | Frank Ragnow | C | Starter |

## COACHING

After suffering through the brutal Matt Patricia era, the Lions went way off board to bring in a head coach who would heal the fractures within the locker room and throughout the organization. But Dan Campbell has proven to be just the man for that job and is beloved by players for his straight-talking, authentic coaching style. That's a big reason the Lions were able to turn around their season last year, and so was Campbell's fearlessness, going for the most fourth downs over the last two seasons, while successfully pulling off seven of eight fake punts. That aggressiveness has become a hallmark of this team, with creative offensive coordinator Ben Johnson now becoming one of the hottest names in the league after only one season at the helm. He turned down a second head-coaching interview in Carolina to return.

**RATING: 8**

## QUARTERBACKS

The Rams won the Super Bowl after acquiring Matthew Stafford, so they're playing with house money after that blockbuster 2021 trade. But the Lions have won their side of the deal more decisively than anyone could have imagined, turning that bounty into Ifeatu Melifonwu and top-34 draft picks like prized receiver Jameson Williams, running back Jahmyr Gibbs and tight end Sam LaPorta. All just to swap out Stafford for Jared Goff, who is now playing better ball than, you guessed it, Matthew Stafford. Goff ranked among the top 10 quarterbacks in all the major categories last season and was named to his third Pro Bowl. Once viewed as a bridge quarterback, Detroit instead chose to build around Goff this offseason, and could offer him an extension if he proves he's back for good next year.

**RATING: 7.5**

## RUNNING BACKS

After posting their best season on the ground since the Barry Sanders era, the Lions made the unusual decision to part with both halves of their 1-2 punch in the backfield. Jamaal Williams is out — despite running for 1,066 yards last season and breaking Sanders' record for rushing touchdowns — and David Montgomery is in as the workhorse back. D'Andre Swift is out and Jahmyr Gibbs is in as the speed back. Gibbs was

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

The reemergence of QB Jared Goff has placed Detroit in position to win its division, something they haven't accomplished since 1991. He does a phenomenal job distributing the ball and spraying it all over the field. ... One under-the-radar target to keep an eye on is WR-turned-TE **Shane Zylstra**. After starring on special teams, Zylstra got an extended look when T.J. Hockenson was dealt and made the most of the opportunity. ... Another mid-season call-up from the practice squad was OLB **James Houston**, who took the league by storm during the second half of the season In fact, Houston finished with eight sacks in seven games, while DE Aidan Hutchinson had 9.5 sacks, providing the Lions with a pair of bookend pass-rushers. Of course, Hutchinson was expected to produce as the No. 2 overall pick, but it's not out of the question to believe that Houston, a sixth-round pick, might be the better pro. ... We saw signs of "Rodrigo" being a special player during Hard Knocks, but ILB **Malcolm Rodriguez** exceeded all expectations. Another Day-3 home run by GM Brad Holmes, the scrappy, undersized Rodriguez racked up 87 tackles as a rookie and has completely raised expectations headed into Year 2. The organization is still holding out hope for FS **Ifeatu Melifonwu** to make an impact, as he enters his third season

## ON THE HOT SEAT

**LEVI ONWUZURIKE**

This might be it for Onwuzurike, who remains the biggest black mark against general manager Brad Holmes' draft record. Holmes selected Onwuzurike in the second round of the 2021 draft despite a history of back injuries dating to his days at Washington. Then Onwuzurike missed his entire rookie training camp dealing with another back injury and was a non-factor all season, then suffered yet another back injury on the first day of contact last year and did not play at all. Once expected to become the interior pass rusher Detroit has lacked for years, Onwuzurike has hit only one quarterback in his career. This is a big season for him to find his way back, or risk being lost for good.

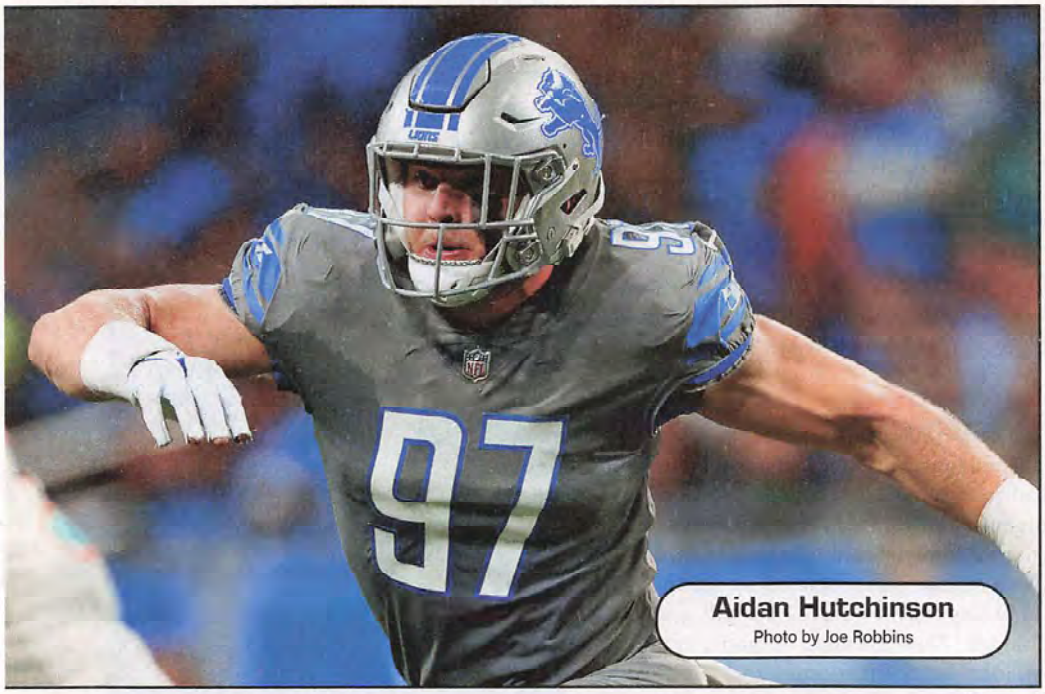
# LIONS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | *Benson, Trinity | 6-0 | 187 | 3 | East Central | 1/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA DEN 19 | The speed is undeniable, but so are the injuries that leave him on the roster's edge. |
| 80 | Green, Antoine | 6-2 | 199 | R | North Carolina | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 DET 23 | A vertical threat who averaged 19.0 yards per catch in five years with Tar Heels. |
| **0** | **Jones Jr., Marvin** | **6-2** | **199** | **11** | **California** | **16/10/0/1** | **UFA,JAX 23** | **D5 CIN 12** | **Caught 36 touchdown passes in his first stint with team, third in franchise history.** |
| 85 | Kennedy, Tom | 5-10 | 195 | 3 | Bryant | 7/1/1/2 | FA 23 | CFA DET 19 | Ex-lacrosse pro who has managed to cling to the bottom of the roster for four years. |
| **87** | **LaPorta, Sam (TE)** | **6-3** | **245** | **R** | **Iowa** | **0/0** | **D2 23** | **D2 DET 23** | **Set Iowa record for most catches by a tight end; should line up all over in Detroit.** |
| 82 | Mitchell, James (TF) | 6-4 | 249 | 2 | Virginia Tech | 14/0/0/3 | D5 22 | D5 DET 22 | Has a lot to prove after spending most of his rookie season recovering from an ACL. |
| 11 | Raymond, Kalif (RS) | 5-8 | 180 | 6 | Holy Cross | 17/6 | FA 21 | CFA DEN 16 | Ex-journeyman who became an All-Pro punt returner and key backup receiver in Detroit. |
| **8** | **Reynolds, Josh** | **6-3** | **194** | **7** | **Texas A&M** | **14/11/0/3** | **W,TENN 21** | **D4 LAR 17** | **Will compete with Jones for final starting job when Williams returns from suspension.** |
| **14** | **St. Brown, Amon-Ra** | **6-0** | **202** | **3** | **Southern Cal** | **16/16/0/1** | **D4 21** | **D4 DET 21** | **Third-down marvel who ranks sixth among all players in catches since entering league.** |
| 9 | Williams, Jameson | 6-1 | 180 | 2 | Alabama | 6/0/0/0 | D1 22 | D1 DET 22 | Explosive athlete who had only two touches as a rookie, but both went for 40 yards. |
| 89 | Wright, Brock (TE) | 6-5 | 255 | 3 | Notre Dame | 17/10 | FA 21 | CFA DET 21 | A solid blocker and pass-catcher who should play a lot alongside the rookie LaPorta. |
| 84 | Zylstra, Shane (TE) | 6-4 | 239 | 2 | Minnesota State-Mankato | 13/2/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA MINN 21 | Trusted red-zone threat who will compete with Mitchell for the final tight-end spot. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 74 | Awosika, Kayode (T) | 6-3 | 312 | 2 | Buffalo | 10/2/1/5 | FA 22 | CFA PHA 21 | Interior reserve whose job is jeopardized by the acquisition of Glasgow and Sorsdal. |
| **68** | **Decker, Taylor (LT)** | **6-7** | **320** | **8** | **Ohio State** | **17/17** | **D1 16** | **D1 DET 16** | **Longest-tenured player in Detroit; allowed one sack in final 11 games last year.** |
| 60 | Glasgow, Graham (G) | 6-6 | 310 | 8 | Michigan | 17/13 | FA 23 | D3 DET 16 | After getting run off by Matt Patricia, ex-starter is back to push for RG job. |
| **73** | **Jackson, Jonah (LG)** | **6-4** | **311** | **4** | **Ohio State** | **13/13/0/4** | **D3 20** | **D3 DET 20** | **A Day-1 starter who turned into a Pro Bowler, but now headed into big contract year.** |
| 67 | Nelson, Matt (T) | 6-7 | 318 | 4 | Iowa | 11/0/0/6 | FA 20 | CFA DET 19 | Gets good run as the swing tackle in Detroit's successful package of jumbo sets. |
| 66 | Pierschbacher, Ross (C) | 6-4 | 315 | 3 | Alabama | 3/0/0/4 | FA 22 | D5 WSH 19 | Interior backup who played just 18 special-teams snaps in first season with team. |
| **77** | **Ragnow, Frank (C)** | **6-5** | **309** | **6** | **Arkansas** | **16/16/0/1** | **D1 18** | **D1 DET 18** | **Coming off second Pro-Bowl nod in three seasons despite a toe injury that still nags.** |
| **58** | **Sewell, Penei (RT)** | **6-5** | **335** | **3** | **Oregon** | **17/17** | **D1 21** | **D1 DET 21** | **Punishing blocker, freaky athlete who splits out and even caught a third-down pass.** |
| 75 | Sorsdal, Colby (T) | 6-6 | 301 | R | William & Mary | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 DET 23 | Started 46 games at right tackle in college; could kick to guard due to arm length. |
| 71 | Stenberg, Logan (G) | 6-6 | 312 | 4 | Kentucky | 16/4/0/1 | D4 20 | D4 DET 20 | Drafted by the previous regime; now buried by this one. Longshot to make team. |
| **72** | ***Vaitai, Halapoulivaati (RG)** | **6-6** | **328** | **8** | **Texas Christian** | **0/0/0/0** | **UFA,PHA 20** | **D5 PHA 16** | **Agreed to big pay cut to return, but will face a lot of heat from Glasgow for RG job.** |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | *Bell, Greg | 6-0 | 200 | 2 | San Diego State | 0/0/0/0 | CFA 22 | CFA DET 22 | Suffered season-ending hamstring injury on second day of rookie camp last year. |
| 45 | Cabinda, Jason (FB) | 6-1 | 238 | 5 | Penn State | 8/2/0/1 | FA 19 | CFA OAK 18 | Good blocker who is beloved by coaches for his rugged playing style on special teams. |
| **26** | **Gibbs, Jahmyr** | **5-9** | **199** | **R** | **Alabama** | **0/0** | **D1 23** | **D1 DET 23** | **Will be heavily involved in passing game after leading Alabama in catches last year.** |
| 5 | Montgomery, David | 5-11 | 224 | 5 | Iowa State | 16/16/0/1 | UFA,CHI 23 | D3 CHI 19 | Ex-Bears pounder who signed three-year, $18 million deal to become Lions' power back. |
| 13 | Reynolds, Craig | 5-11 | 216 | 2 | Kutztown | 9/0/0/3 | FA 21 | CFA WSH 19 | Won over staff by once running for a preseason TD before even practicing with team. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **16** | **Goff, Jared** | **6-4** | **217** | **8** | **California** | **17/17** | **T,DET 21** | **D1 LA 16** | **Was among the 10 best QBs in yards, yards per pass, TDs and passer rating last year.** |
| 12 | Hooker, Hendon | 6-3 | 217 | R | Tennessee | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 DET 23 | Dual-threat who will sit as rookie (ACL), but has long-term upside that is appealing. |
| 10 | Sudfeld, Nate | 6-6 | 227 | 7 | Indiana | 2/0/15/0 | FA 22 | D6 WSH 16 | Veteran backup who didn't throw a pass last year; will eventually cede QB2 to Hooker. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **96** | **Buggs, Isaiah (NT)** | **6-3** | **295** | **4** | **Alabama** | **17/13** | **FA 22** | **D6 PITT 19** | **Set career highs in tackles (46), QB hits (10), starts (13) after signing last year.** |
| **79** | **Cominsky, John (E)** | **6-5** | **285** | **5** | **Charleston** | **14/9/0/3** | **FA 22** | **D4 ATL 19** | **A former Falcons bust who became the best Lions defensive lineman not named Aidan.** |
| 53 | *Harris, Charles (E) | 6-3 | 250 | 7 | Missouri | 6/4/0/5 | UFA,ATL 21 | D1 MIA 17 | Ex-Lions sack leader who had to take pay cut after playing only six games last year. |
| **97** | **Hutchinson, Aidan (E)** | **6-7** | **264** | **2** | **Michigan** | **17/17** | **D1 22** | **D1 DET 22** | **Day-1 starter who finished runner-up in Defensive Rookie of the Year voting. Stud.** |
| 94 | Jones, Benito (T) | 6-1 | 318 | 3 | Mississippi | 17/1 | W,MIA 22 | CFA MIA 20 | Solid interior reserve against the run, but has work to do to make improved roster. |
| 98 | Martin, Brodric (T) | 6-5 | 337 | R | Western Kentucky | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 DET 23 | Lions traded away three Day-3 picks to get the 337-pounder to help their run defense. |
| **54** | **McNeill, Alim (T)** | **6-2** | **325** | **3** | **North Carolina State** | **17/17** | **D3 21** | **D3 DET 21** | **Solid starter who doubled his QB hits from Year 1-2, now looking for more in Year 3.** |
| 91 | *Onwuzurike, Levi (E) | 6-3 | 295 | 3 | Washington | 0/0/0/0 | D2 21 | D2 DET 21 | Back injuries plagued his career from Day 1; didn't play last year. Do-or-die time. |
| 93 | Paschal, Josh (E) | 6-3 | 274 | 2 | Kentucky | 10/4/0/2 | D2 22 | D2 MINN 22 | Made a big rookie impact as an inside-out pass rusher; could be poised for breakout. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **34** | **Anzalone, Alex (I)** | **6-3** | **237** | **7** | **Florida** | **17/17** | **UFA,NORL 21** | **D3 NORL 17** | **Turned a career season (125 tackles) into new three-year, $18.75 million contract.** |
| 55 | Barnes, Derrick (I) | 6-0 | 238 | 3 | Purdue | 15/4/0/2 | D4 21 | D4 DET 21 | Buried down the depth chart after arrival of Rodriguez last year, Campbell this year. |
| **46** | **Campbell, Jack (M)** | **6-5** | **249** | **R** | **Iowa** | **0/0** | **D1 23** | **D1 DET 23** | **Highest off-ball linebacker drafted by the Lions since Ernie Sims in 2006.** |
| 59 | Houston, James (O) | 6-1 | 241 | 2 | Jackson State | 7/1/0/0 | FA 22 | D6 DET 22 | Day-3 steal who racked up an NFL-record eight sacks in his first six games as rookie. |
| 99 | *Okwara, Julian (O) | 6-4 | 239 | 4 | Notre Dame | 10/2/0/1 | D3 20 | D3 DET 20 | High-end traits as rusher, but injuries have limited his impact heading into Year 4. |
| 95 | Okwara, Romeo (O) | 6-4 | 255 | 8 | Notre Dame | 5/0/0/1 | W,NYG 18 | CFA NYG 16 | Two-time Lions sack leader who is still struggling to shake off 2021 Achilles injury. |
| 57 | Pittman, Anthony (I) | 6-3 | 242 | 3 | Wayne State | 17/1 | FA 22 | CFA DET 19 | Played more special-teams snaps last year than any other player still in Detroit. |
| 42 | Reeves-Maybin, Jalen (I) | 6-1 | 230 | 7 | Tennessee | 17/0 | FA 23 | D4 DET 17 | Special-teams star who is back in Detroit after a one-year sabbatical in Houston. |
| 44 | Rodriguez, Malcolm (I) | 5-11 | 230 | 2 | Oklahoma State | 16/15/0/1 | D6 22 | D6 DET 22 | Led all Day-3 picks in tackles for loss last year, but could be benched for Campbell. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 32 | Branch, Brian (S) | 6-0 | 190 | R | Alabama | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 DET 23 | Missed three tackles on 77 attempts last year; only four in his career at Alabama. |
| **2** | **Gardner-Johnson, C.J. (CB/S)** | **5-11** | **210** | **5** | **Florida** | **12/12/0/0** | **UFA,PHA 23** | **D4 NORL 19** | **Standout safety (Saints) and slot (Eagles) who could play either in Detroit. Or both.** |
| 25 | Harris, Will (S) | 6-1 | 206 | 5 | Boston College | 15/10/0/2 | D3 19 | D3 DET 19 | Never worked out at defensive back, but has found new life as a special-teams staple. |
| 39 | Jacobs, Jerry (CB) | 5-11 | 203 | 3 | Arkansas | 12/8/0/0 | CFA 21 | CFA DET 21 | A pit bull who could push for snaps despite the quality additions on the perimeter. |
| **31** | **Joseph, Kerby (S)** | **6-1** | **203** | **2** | **Illinois** | **17/14** | **D3 22** | **D3 DET 22** | **Looks like the future of the position after leading the team in picks as a rookie.** |
| 27 | *Lucas, Chase (CB) | 5-11 | 184 | 2 | Arizona State | 6/0/0/6 | D7 22 | D7 DET 22 | Brings a lot of good energy, but has no clear path to snaps in the secondary anymore. |
| 6 | Melifonwu, Ifeatu (CB) | 6-3 | 210 | 3 | Syracuse | 10/1/0/7 | D3 21 | D3 DET 21 | Acquired with the first draft pick in the Matthew Stafford trade; now might bust out. |
| **4** | ***Moseley, Emmanuel (CB)** | **5-11** | **190** | **6** | **Tennessee** | **5/5/0/0** | **UFA,SF 23** | **CFA SF 18** | **Allowed 69.8 passer rating in last two seasons with 49ers; injuries limited impact.** |
| 23 | *Smith, Saivion (CB) | 6-1 | 200 | 2 | Alabama | 1/1/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA JAX 19 | Expected to make full return after being temporarily paralyzed vs. Pats last year. |
| **1** | **Sutton, Cameron (CB)** | **5-11** | **188** | **7** | **Tennessee** | **16/15/0/1** | **UFA,PITT 23** | **D3 PITT 17** | **Signed largest deal by an external player in Holmes era (three years, $33 million).** |
| **21** | ***Walker, Tracy (S)** | **6-1** | **206** | **6** | **Louisiana-Lafayette** | **3/3/0/0** | **D3 18** | **D3 DET 18** | **Determined to play in opener despite tearing Achilles in first month of last year.** |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | Badgley, Michael (K) | 5-10 | 183 | 6 | Miami | 13/0/1/0 | FA 22 | CFA IND 18 | First Lions kicker to be named Special Teams Player of the Week since Matt Prater. |
| 47 | Daly, Scott (LS) | 6-1 | 245 | 3 | Notre Dame | 17/0 | FA 21 | FA DALL 18 | Never botched a snap, but erratic enough for Detroit to bring in legit competition. |
| 3 | Fox, Jack (P) | 6-2 | 215 | 4 | Rice | 17/0 | FA 20 | CFA KC 19 | Became NFL's No.-2 paid punter after ranking in top 10 in gross/net yards again. |
| 50 | *McQuaide, Jake (LS) | 6-2 | 235 | 13 | Ohio State | 4/0/0/0 | UFA,DALL 23 | CFA STL 11 | Two-time Pro Bowler played only four games in Dallas last year due to triceps injury. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Maurice Alexander (1, Florida International), Stanley Berryhill (1, Arizona); TE Derrick Deese Jr. (1, San Jose State); Ts Obinna Eze (1, Texas Christian), Darrin Paulo (1, Utah); RB Jermar Jefferson (2, Oregon State); DE Demetrius Taylor (2, Appalachian State); CBs Khalil Dorsey (3, Northern Arizona), Mac McCain III (2, North Carolina A&T), Jarren Williams (2, Albany, N.Y.); S Brady Breeze (2, Oregon)



Aidan Hutchinson
Photo by Joe Robbins

taken so highly in the draft — higher than the Lions have taken any other running back since Sanders in 1989 — because of what he can offer as a pass-catcher as well as a runner. With all five starters back up front, Detroit now believes it has one of the most dangerous ground games in the league.

**RATING: 7**

## RECEIVERS

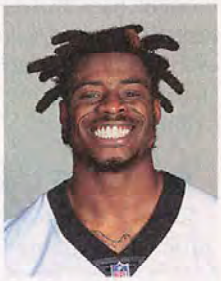
Where have you gone, Jameson Williams? The Lions traded up to take the former Alabama burner 12th overall in last year's draft, but got only one catch out of him due to an extended recovery from a torn ACL, then a bad case of drops and missed connections with Jared Goff. That guy needs time on the field, only now he's been suspended for the first six games of next season because of a violation of the league's gambling policy. The Lions still have Amon-Ra St. Brown, a budding star in the slot who is coming off his first Pro-Bowl nod, and that helps. But Williams is now guaranteed to miss 17 of his first 23 NFL games, and there is growing concern about the decision-making that is curbing his development. Former Lions receiver Marvin Jones Jr. rejoined the team to help fill the void on the outside.

**RATING: 6.5**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Lions have developed one of the premier offensive lines in the league, even though their starting five has not played a single snap intact since 2020. That's a testament to position coach Hank Fraley, as well as the talent that has piled up after years of priority signings and draft picks. That includes former first-rounders like center Frank Ragnow and right tackle Penei Sewell, who are now among the best players in the league at their positions, and Taylor Decker too, a really solid left tackle coming off perhaps the best season

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES



**KEY ADDITION**

**S C.J. Gardner-Johnson**

He broke in under Lions defensive coordinator Aaron Glenn in New Orleans, then led Philadelphia to a Super Bowl before reuniting with Glenn in Detroit. He'll bring professionalism and physicality to a secondary needing both.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**

G Graham Glasgow, WR Marvin Jones Jr., LS Jake McQuaide, RB David Montgomery, CB Emmanuel Moseley, LB Jalen Reeves-Maybin, CB Saivion Smith, CB Cam Sutton

**KEY LOSS:**

**RB Jamaal Williams (17/9)***

Williams ran for 1,066 yards last season, the best output by a Lions player since Kevin Jones in 2004, but tried to hardball the club in free agency and they signed David Montgomery instead.

**OTHER LOSSES:**

LB Chris Board (17/1), DE Michael Brockers (6/5), **C Evan Brown (14/12)**, LB Austin Bryant (9/0), WR Quintez Cephus (4/1), **WR DJ Chark (11/10)**, S **DeShon Elliott (14/13)**, CB Mike Hughes (16/6), RB Justin Jackson (16/0), G Tommy Kraemer (0/0), S C.J. Moore (11/0), **CB Jeff Okudah (15/15)**, CB Amani Oruwariye (14/5), S Bobby Price (5/0), T Dan Skipper (16/5), RB D'Andre Swift (14/8), LB Josh Woods (17/0)*

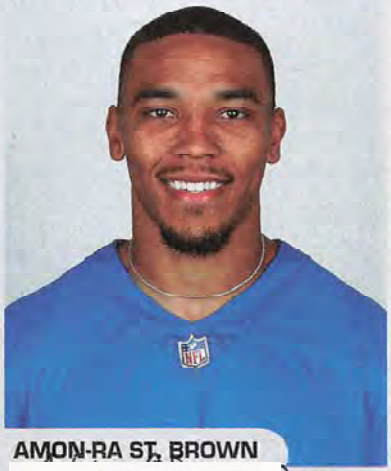
**Total games played/started lost: 216/90**

**STARTERS RETURNING**

17: 8 offense, 9 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS



AMON-RA ST. BROWN

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jared Goff | 587 | 382 | 4438 | 29 | 7 |

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jamaal Williams | 262 | 1066 | 4.1 | 17 |
| D'Andre Swift | 99 | 542 | 5.5 | 5 |
| Justin Jackson | 42 | 170 | 4.1 | 1 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Amon-Ra St. Brown | 106 | 1161 | 11 | 6 |
| Kalif Raymond | 47 | 616 | 13.1 | 0 |
| D.J. Chark | 30 | 502 | 16.7 | 3 |
| Josh Reynolds | 38 | 479 | 12.6 | 3 |

**Kicking:** Badgley 33/33 XPs, 20/24 FGs, 93 points
**Tackles:** Anzalone 125, Elliott 95, Rodriguez 83
**Sacks:** Hutchinson 9.5, Houston 8, Cominsky 4
**INTs:** Joseph 4, Hutchinson 3, five tied with 1

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 380 | 4 |
| Passing Offense | 251.8 | 8 |
| Rushing Offense | 128.2 | 11 |
| Points | 26.6 | 5 |
| Sacked | 24 | 2 |
| 3rd Down % | 40.8 | 14 |

| Defense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Defense | 392.4 | 32 |
| Passing Defense | 245.8 | 30 |
| Rushing Defense | 146.5 | 29 |
| Points Allowed | 25.1 | T-28 |
| INTs | 12 | T-19 |
| Sacks | 39 | T-18 |
| Turnover Diff. | +7 | T-4 |

of his career. All five starters are back overall, and former starter Graham Glasgow was brought back in free agency after spending three seasons in Denver. From left to right and even the bench, Detroit is in truly excellent shape up front.

**RATING: 9**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

James Houston didn't make his NFL debut until Thanksgiving last year, but still managed to finish second among all rookies in sacks with eight. The only man with more? Teammate Aidan Hutchinson (9.5). It was that kind of season for the Lions, who set the NFL record for most sacks by a rookie class. The team is hopeful their long-struggling pass rush is finally on track that they unexpectedly eschewed selecting an edge rusher in the draft. On the interior, the picture isn't so rosy, especially against the pass. They didn't add the interior rusher they've lacked for years, perhaps intending to continue leaning on edge guys like Hutchinson, John Cominsky and Josh Paschal to continue kicking inside.

**RATING: 7**

## LINEBACKERS

After their league-worst defense struggled against both the run as well as the pass last season, the Lions wanted to get faster, more physical and just plain better in the heart of the defense. They did that by adding Jack Campbell in the draft, although having to burn the 18th overall pick to do it, awfully high for an off-ball linebacker. But the Lions believe his value exceeds the position because of what he offers as a cornerstone-type building block. He's the future at linebacker in Detroit, and will start from Day 1. So will Alex Anzalone, who just turned a career season into a three-year, $18.75 million contract. With Malcolm Rodriguez headed to the bench, the Lions have gotten better here, although at an exorbitant cost.

**RATING: 6**

## SECONDARY

The Lions were tracking for a historically bad pass defense last season before making urgent changes, including canning position coach Aubrey Pleasant before benching all three opening-day starters at cornerback, including former No. 3 overall pick Jeff Okudah. Now Okudah is gone, traded to Atlanta for a fifth-round pick, while the Lions have invested huge resources into signing projected starters like Cam Sutton, C.J. Gardner-Johnson and Emmanuel Moseley. They also selected former Alabama All-American Brian Branch with the 45th pick, one of the best values of the draft. With Kerby Joseph and Tracy Walker back at safety, Detroit has a lot of versatile chess pieces with which to play as it tries to get more solvent in the secondary.

**RATING: 6**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Like the offense, this unit has turned into one of the league's best under coordinator Dave Fipp. Kalif Raymond was just named an All-Pro punt returner, while Jack Fox is the best punter in the history of the franchise, and probably has one of the best arms on a punter ever, converting 3 of 4 passes for 44 yards and three first downs on fake punts. The big weakness was at kicker, although Michael Badgley has stabilized that situation by making 20-of-24 attempts last season. There is an opening at kickoff returner, while long snapper Scott Daly could face serious competition from newcomer Jake McQuaide in camp.

**RATING: 8**

## INTANGIBLES

The Lions have stocked their coaching staff with former NFL players like Aaron Glenn, Antwaan Randle-El, Mark Brunell, Hank Fraley, Dre Bly, Steve Heiden and of course Dan Campbell, a former Lions blocking tight end. That offers this staff even more credibility with players, and their relationship to the roster is truly unique in today's game.

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Kyle Meinke

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Quarterback Jared Goff will head into next season carrying an active streak of 324 straight passes without an interception, the fifth-longest streak in NFL history. After turning over the football more than any other player in his final two seasons in L.A., Goff has tightened up since arriving in Detroit.

2. Receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown is on the brink of stardom, matching the NFL record for most catches in a player's first two seasons and making his first Pro Bowl last season.

3. After turning over so much of the roster they inherited, this regime has now brought back former starters like receiver Marvin Jones Jr., offensive lineman Graham Glasgow and special-teams standout Jalen Reeves-Maybin, giving them opportunities to be a part of the return to glory that never happened during their first stints with Detroit.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 9-8**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | PHILADELPHIA | 35-38 |
| Sept. 18 | WASHINGTON | 36-27 |
| Sept. 25 | at Minnesota | 24-28 |
| Oct. 2 | SEATTLE | 45-48 |
| Oct. 9 | at New England | 0-29 |
| Oct. 23 | at Dallas | 6-24 |
| Oct. 30 | MIAMI | 27-31 |
| Nov. 6 | GREEN BAY | 15-9 |
| Nov. 13 | at Chicago | 31-30 |
| Nov. 20 | at N.Y. Giants | 31-18 |
| Nov. 24 | BUFFALO | 25-28 |
| Dec. 4 | JACKSONVILLE | 40-14 |
| Dec. 11 | MINNESOTA | 34-23 |
| Dec. 18 | at N.Y. Jets | 20-17 |
| Dec. 24 | at Carolina | 23-37 |
| Jan. 1 | CHICAGO | 41-10 |
| Jan. 8 | at Green Bay | 20-16 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Eastern**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | N.Y. JETS | TBD |
| Aug. 17-21 | JACKSONVILLE | TBD |
| Aug. 24-27 | at Carolina (Fri) | 8:00 |
| Sept. 7 | at Kansas City (Thu) | 8:20 |
| Sept. 17 | SEATTLE | 1:00 |
| Sept. 24 | ATLANTA | 1:00 |
| Sept. 28 | at Green Bay (Thu) | 8:15 |
| Oct. 8 | CAROLINA | 1:00 |
| Oct. 15 | at Tampa Bay | 1:00 |
| Oct. 22 | at Baltimore | 1:00 |
| Oct. 30 | LAS VEGAS (Mon) | 8:15 |
| | BYE | |
| Nov. 12 | at L.A. Chargers | 4:05 |
| Nov. 19 | CHICAGO | 1:00 |
| Nov. 23 | GREEN BAY (Thu) | 12:30 |
| Dec. 3 | at New Orleans | 1:00 |
| Dec. 10 | at Chicago | 1:00 |
| Dec. 16/17 | DENVER | TBD |
| Dec. 24 | at Minnesota | 1:00 |
| Dec. 30 | at Dallas (Sat) | 8:15 |
| TBD | MINNESOTA | TBD |

# GREEN BAY PACKERS

## Favre, Rodgers and now Love. Buckle Up!

It's a new era in the NFL's smallest city.

Aaron Rodgers quarterbacked the Packers for the last 15 seasons — and spent a franchise-record 18 years with the organization. The Packers traded Rodgers to the Jets in April, though, and will turn things over to 2020 first-round draft pick Jordan Love.

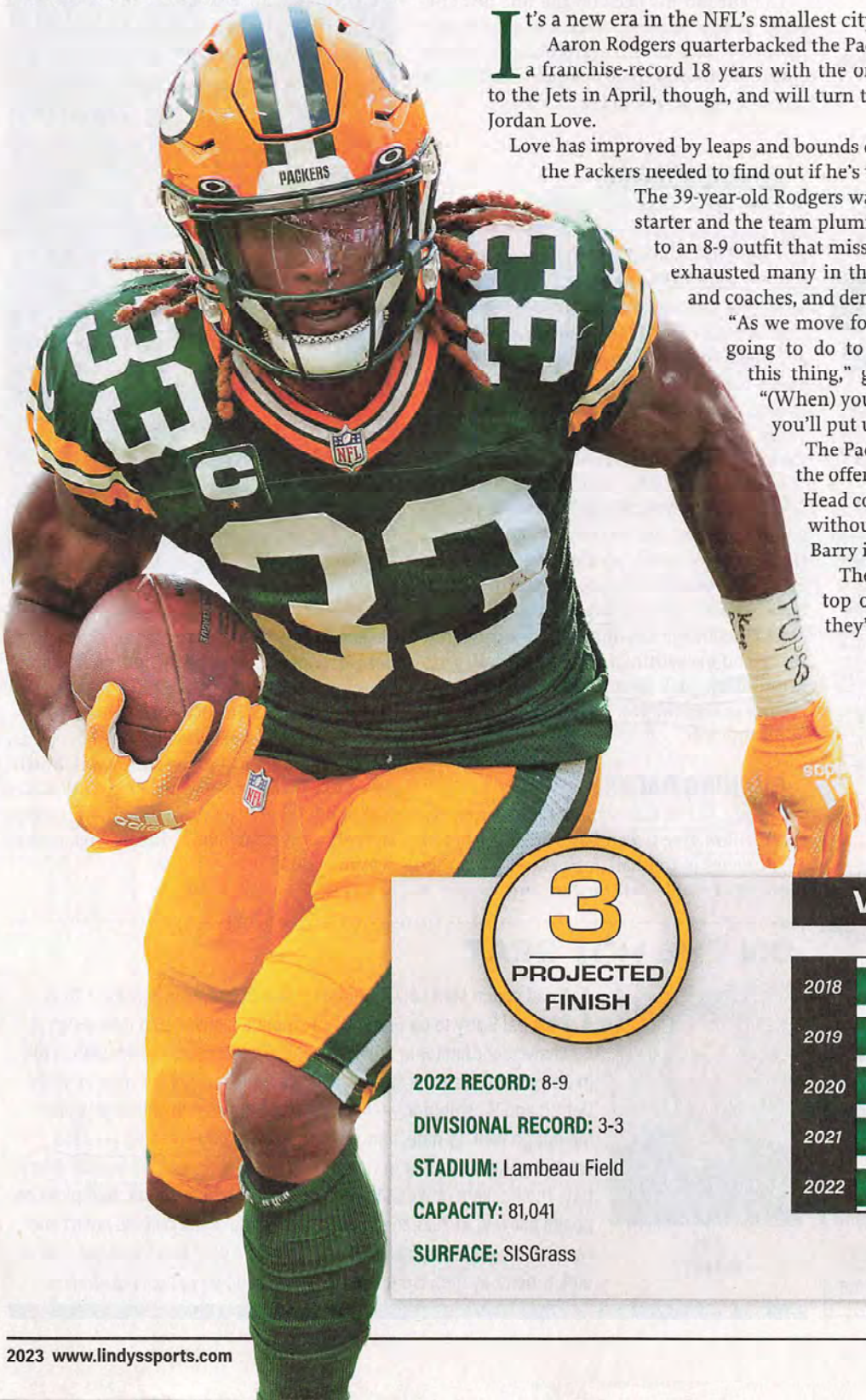
Love has improved by leaps and bounds during his three years with the team and the Packers needed to find out if he's their long-term answer at the position.

The 39-year-old Rodgers was also coming off his poorest season as a starter and the team plummeted from the NFC's No. 1 seed in 2021 to an 8-9 outfit that missed the playoffs in 2022. Rodgers had also exhausted many in the organization by criticizing teammates and coaches, and demanding a say in front-office decisions.

"As we move forward, it was more about what we were going to do to get better and have a chance to win this thing," general manager Brian Gutekunst said. "(When) you're 13-3 or 13-4 and No. 1 seed ... you'll put up with a lot."

The Packers weren't close to that last year when the offense and defense both ranked 17th overall. Head coach Matt LaFleur must prove he can win without Rodgers. And defensive coordinator Joe Barry is on the hottest of hot seats.

The Packers face a tough path back to the top of the division — and conference. Now, they'll find out if Love & Co. are up to the task.



**Aaron Jones**
Photo by Logan Bowles via AP

**3**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 8-9

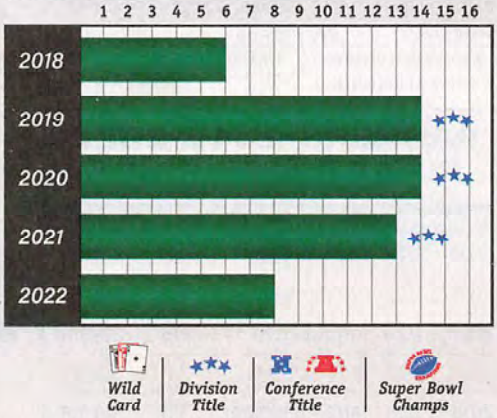
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 3-3

**STADIUM:** Lambeau Field

**CAPACITY:** 81,041

**SURFACE:** SISGrass

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

**1265 LOMBARDI AVENUE**
**GREEN BAY, WI 54304**
**(920) 569-7500**
**WWW.PACKERS.COM**

**TRAINING CAMP:** Green Bay Packers Practice Fields, Green Bay, WI
**HEAD COACH:** Matt LaFleur
- 5th season as Packers/NFL head coach
- 49-22 overall; 2-3 postseason

**PRESIDENT/CEO:** Mark Murphy
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Brian Gutekunst
**EVP/DIR. FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:** Russ Ball
**DIR. FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:** Milt Hendrickson
**VP PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Jon-Eric Sullivan
**DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:** John Wojciechowski
**DIR. COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Matt Malaspina
**DIR. PRO PERSONNEL:** Richmond Willia---

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Adam Stenavich | Offensive coordinator | 7 | 4 |
| Tom Clements | Quarterbacks | 24 | 13 |
| Connor Lewis | Asst. quarterbacks | 4 | 4 |
| Luke Butkus | Offensive line | 13 | 5 |
| Ryan Mahaffey | Assistant line | 3 | 3 |
| John Dunn | Tight ends | 7 | 3 |
| Ben Sirmans | Running backs | 12 | 8 |
| Jason Vrable | *Receivers | 11 | 5 |
| Ramsen Golpashin | Off. quality control | 2 | 2 |
| Rob Grosso | Off. quality control | 4 | 1 |
| Quinshon Odom | Coaching asst. (Fellowship) | 2 | 2 |
| Joe Barry | Defensive coordinator | 22 | 3 |
| Greg Williams | Def. pass game coord. | 15 | 1 |
| Jason Rebrovich | Pass rush specialist | 10 | 2 |
| Tim Lester | Senior analyst | 1 | 1 |
| Jerry Montgomery | #Defensive line | 9 | 9 |
| Kirk Olivadotti | Inside linebackers | 21 | 5 |
| Ryan Downard | Defensive backs | 8 | 6 |
| Wendel Davis | Def. quality control | 5 | 5 |
| Justin Hood | Def. quality control | 3 | 3 |
| Rich Bisaccia | @Special teams coord. | 22 | 2 |
| Byron Storer | Asst. special teams | 10 | 2 |
| Kyle Wilber | ST/quality control | 1 | 1 |
| Chris Gizzi | S&C coordinator | 10 | 10 |
| Mark Lovat | S&C assistant | 25 | 25 |
| Thadeus Jackson | S&C assistant | 14 | 14 |
| Grant Thorne | S&C assistant | 11 | 11 |

* Offensive pass game coord. # Defensive run game coord.
@ Assistant head coach

## PACKERS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/22 | Quay Walker | LB | Starter |
| 2021 | 1/29 | Eric Stokes | CB | Starter |
| 2020 | 1/26 | Jordan Love | QB | Starter |
| 2019 | 1/12 | Rashan Gary | LB | Starter |
| 2018 | 1/18 | Jaire Alexander | CB | Starter |

## COACHING

Matt LaFleur was the darling of Green Bay his first three seasons.

The Packers went 39-10 in that time, won three straight NFC North division titles and reached two conference championship games.

Many jumped off the LaFleur bandwagon last year, though, when the Packers plummeted to third place in the division and had their first losing season since 2018. He'll now have to prove he can win without Rodgers.

LaFleur put his neck on the line bringing back underachieving defensive coordinator Joe Barry for a third year. If Barry's defense continues to disappoint, not only will he be gone, but LaFleur could soon follow.

**RATING: 8**

## QUARTERBACKS

After three years of waiting and watching, Green Bay is anxious to see what Love can do. Love played in four games in 2022 and finished the year 14-of-21 for 195 yards with one touchdown, no interceptions and a passer rating of 112.2. During a 40-33 loss at Philadelphia on Nov. 27, Rodgers left the game with a rib injury early in the fourth quarter. Enter Love, who went 6-of-9 for 113 yards, had a passer rating of 146.8 and led the Packers to 10 points on his two drives.

Love has fantastic arm talent, can throw from several different angles, has nifty touch on deep balls and extremely large hands (10.5 inches). Love's scrambling ability also brings a new dimension to the offense. What Love doesn't have is experience, so he can expect defensive coordinators to throw anything and everything his way this fall. Fifth round draft pick Sean Clifford is the frontrunner to win the No. 2 job.

**RATING: 6.5**

## RUNNING BACKS

Speedy Aaron Jones and 247-pound bruiser AJ Dillon give Green Bay one of the better 1-2 punches in football. Jones ran for a career high 1,121 yards last season and caught a career-best 59 passes. He averaged 5.3 yards per carry, which was the second-most among running backs with at least 100 carries, and finished with seven total touchdowns.

Dillon has rushed for nearly 1,600 yards, caught 62 passes and had 14 total touchdowns over the last two seasons. Dillon has just one 100-yard rushing game in his career, though, and that came during his rookie season of 2020.

**RATING: 8**

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

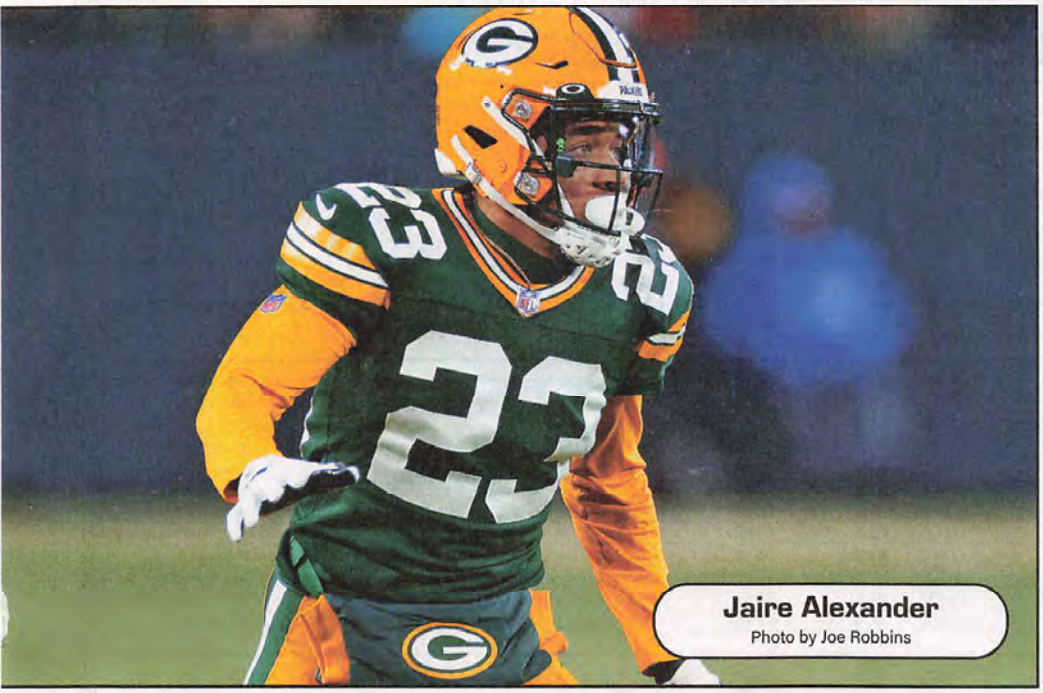
While Green Bay is home to the smallest market in the NFL, the Packers offseason was anything but quiet. The Aaron Rodgers (Jets) saga dragged out all the way leading up to the draft, as the franchise is officially set to pass the torch to QB **Jordan Love**. With three years to learn behind A-Rod, he instilled enough confidence in the coaching staff to finally kick off the training wheels. Love will have the Packers in the hunt and 4,000 yards, along with 25-30 touchdowns, is certainly attainable. The transition to Love should be especially smooth with emerging WRs **Christian Watson** and **Romeo Doubs**. Both players gave us a look into the future with their rookie performances. However, Love has reportedly developed a tight rapport with Watson, who could be poised for the bigger season of the two. On defense, look for DT **Devonte Wyatt** to take a major leap forward in his development. Primarily relegated to backup duties as a rookie, Wyatt came on strong towards the end of the season, showcasing his ability to be an effective run stopper, in addition to applying pressure on the quarterback. He should see his playing time receive a big boost.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

JOE BARRY

Head coach Matt LaFleur hired his pal Barry to be Green Bay's defensive coordinator in 2021. In Barry's two previous stops — Detroit and Washington — things did not go well. To date, things haven't gone any better in Green Bay. The Packers ranked 14th in points allowed in 2021, then added two first-round draft picks to the unit. Green Bay then went backwards last year, ranking 17th in points allowed and total defense.

The Packers tied for 27th in the league last season with 34 sacks. And the stench still lingers after allowing 363 rushing yards to Philadelphia last November. Barry has eight first-round draft picks on his side of the ball. He hasn't succeeded with that talent yet, and is likely down to his final chance.



Jaire Alexander
Photo by Joe Robbins

## RECEIVERS

General manager Brian Gutekunst has selected six wideouts in the last two drafts, including three this year. He also took two tight ends in this year's draft, and those eight players will be Love's top targets moving forward. Speedy second-year man Christian Watson is the new No. 1 wideout. Watson, who played collegiately at North Dakota State, remains somewhat raw, but his 4.28 speed in the 40-yard dash is polarizing. Watson had only 10 receptions for 88 yards and no touchdowns in the first nine games of the season. However, he erupted over the final eight games with 31 catches for 523 yards (16.9 average) and seven touchdowns.

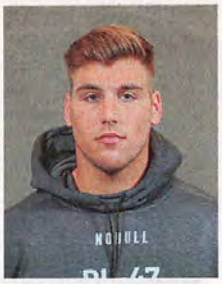
Second-year man Romeo Doubs (42 catches, 425 yards, three touchdowns) lacks Watson's speed, but he's a solid possession receiver who the Packers hope can blossom into their No. 2. Rookie second-round pick Jayden Reed could become the immediate starter in the slot. Rookie tight ends Luke Musgrave and Tucker Kraft will be given every chance to become the top players at that position.

RATING: 6

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Green Bay's unit ranked third overall in 2022 according to Pro Football Focus. It marked the Packers' fourth top-10 finish since 2018. The key is left tackle David Bakhtiari, who missed the 2021 season with a devastating knee injury. Bakhtiari played 597 snaps in 2022, didn't allow a sack and started looking like the player that was named All-Pro each season from 2016-2020. Elgton Jenkins, who was coming off a torn ACL in 2021, made five starts at right tackle last year and struggled. But when the Packers moved him back to his natural left-guard spot, Jenkins regained the form that made him a 2020 Pro Bowler.

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES



**KEY ADDITION:**

**LB Lukas Van Ness**

The rookie first-round draft pick, who never started a game at Iowa, will be counted on for big things. If Rashan Gary isn't ready in Week 1, Van Ness will likely get his first start since high school.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**

S Tarvarius Moore, LS Matt Orzech

**KEY LOSS:**

**QB Aaron Rodgers (17/17)***

Rodgers spent 18 years with the organization, including the last 15 as Green Bay's starter. While he was incredibly high-maintenance, the future Hall of Famer gave the Packers a chance to win every Sunday.

**OTHER LOSSES:**

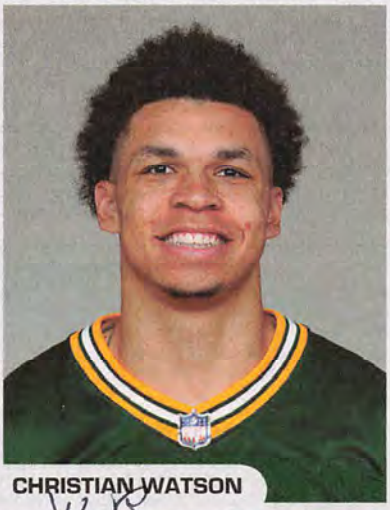
**S Adrian Amos (17/17)**, LB Krys Barnes (6/1), WR Randall Cobb (13/3), K Mason Crosby (17/0), **WR Allen Lazard (15/15), TE Marcedes Lewis (17/17), DE Dean Lowry (15/12),** DL Jarran Reed (17/14), TE Robert Tonyan (17/3)*
Total games played/started lost: 151/99

**STARTERS RETURNING**

**16: 8 offense, 8 defense, punter**

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS



CHRISTIAN WATSON

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| PASSING | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aaron Rodgers | 542 | 350 | 3695 | 26 | 12 |
| Jordan Love | 21 | 14 | 195 | 1 | 0 |

| RUSHING | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aaron Jones | 213 | 1121 | 5.3 | 2 |
| A.J. Dillon | 186 | 770 | 4.1 | 7 |

| RECEIVING | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Allen Lazard | 60 | 788 | 13.1 | 6 |
| Christian Watson | 41 | 611 | 14.9 | 7 |
| Robert Tonyan | 53 | 470 | 8.9 | 2 |
| Romeo Doubs | 42 | 425 | 10.1 | 3 |

**Kicking:** Crosby 37/39 XPs, 25/29 FGs, 112 points
**Tackles:** Walker 119, Amos 97, Campbell 96
**Sacks:** Smith 8.5, Gary 6, Clark 4
**INTs:** Alexander 5, Douglas 4, Ford 3

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 337.9 | 17 |
| Passing Offense | 213.6 | 17 |
| Rushing Offense | 124.3 | 15 |
| Points | 21.8 | 14 |
| Sacked | 32 | 7 |
| 3rd Down % | 39.5 | 17 |

| Defense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Defense | 336.5 | 17 |
| Passing Defense | 197 | 6 |
| Rushing Defense | 139.5 | 26 |
| Points Allowed | 21.8 | T-17 |
| INTs | 17 | T-4 |
| Sacks | 34 | T-27 |
| Turnover Diff. | +2 | T-12 |

# PACKERS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 84 | Davis, Tyler (TE) | 6-4 | 252 | 4 | Georgia Tech | 17/1 | FA 23 | D6 JAX 20 | Three years in the league have yielded only eight catches and no touchdowns. |
| 81 | Deguara, Josiah (TE) | 6-2 | 238 | 4 | Cincinnati | 17/3 | D3 20 | D3 GB 20 | Former third-round pick has 39 catches and two TDs in his first three NFL seasons. |
| **87** | **Doubs, Romeo** | **6-2** | **204** | **2** | **Nevada** | **13/7/0/4** | **D4 22** | **D4 GB 22** | **Shined in first six games before an ankle sprain slowed him down in second half.** |
| 86 | DuBose, Grant | 6-2 | 201 | R | Charlotte | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 GB 23 | Bucked the odds going from Division II Miles College to Charlotte to the NFL. |
| 85 | Kraft, Tucker (TE) | 6-5 | 259 | R | South Dakota State | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 GB 23 | Small-school rookie tight end was drafted in Round 3 due to dynamic skill set. |
| 80 | Melton, Bo | 5-11 | 189 | 1 | Rutgers | 0/0/0/2 | FA 22 | D7 SEA 22 | Seventh-round pick in 2022 who was signed from Seattle's practice squad last year. |
| **88** | **Musgrave, Luke (TE)** | **6-6** | **253** | **R** | **Oregon State** | **0/0** | **D2 23** | **D2 GB 23** | **Gifted rookie tight end battled injuries at Oregon State.** |
| **11** | **Reed, Jayden** | **5-11** | **187** | **R** | **Michigan State** | **0/0** | **D2 23** | **D2 GB 23** | **Dynamic rookie wideout could contribute from the slot and in the return game.** |
| 83 | Toure, Samori | 6-1 | 191 | 2 | Nebraska | 11/2/0/6 | D7 22 | D7 GB 22 | Seventh-round pick in 2022 who can run (4.47), but still must get stronger. |
| **9** | **Watson, Christian** | **6-4** | **208** | **2** | **North Dakota State** | **14/11/0/3** | **D2 22** | **D2 GB 22** | **Blinding speed was on display late in 2022 with seven TDs in a four-game stretch.** |
| 13 | Wicks, Dontayvion | 6-1 | 206 | R | Virginia | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 GB 23 | Impressive physical skills, but struggled with drops as a collegian. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **69** | **Bakhtiari, David (LT)** | **6-4** | **310** | **11** | **Colorado** | **11/11/0/6** | **D4 13** | **D4 GB 13** | **Began rounding back into form from devastating knee injury suffered late in 2020.** |
| 67 | *Hanson, Jake (C) | 6-4 | 296 | 3 | Oregon | 6/1/0/0 | FA 21 | D6 GB 20 | Former sixth-round draft pick will fight for his roster spot in training camp. |
| **74** | **Jenkins, Elgton (LG)** | **6-5** | **311** | **5** | **Mississippi State** | **15/15/0/2** | **D2 19** | **D2 GB 19** | **Made impressive recovery from ACL injury and settled back into LG position.** |
| 72 | Jones, Caleb (T) | 6-9 | 370 | 2 | Indiana | 0/0/0/6 | FA 22 | CFA GB 22 | Gigantic man (6-9, 370) and even bigger project after not playing a snap in 2022. |
| **71** | **Myers, Josh (C)** | **6-5** | **310** | **3** | **Ohio State** | **17/17** | **D2 21** | **D2 GB 21** | **Rebounded well from 2021 knee injury and looks like the long-term center.** |
| 70 | Newman, Royce (G) | 6-5 | 310 | 3 | Mississippi | 17/6 | D4 21 | D4 GB 21 | Third-year man lost starting job last season, but looks to reclaim it this year. |
| 73 | Nijman, Yosh (T) | 6-7 | 314 | 4 | Virginia Tech | 17/13 | FA 19 | CFA GB 19 | Primary starter at RT last year, but was benched in season finale against Detroit. |
| 75 | *Rhyan, Sean (G/T) | 6-5 | 321 | 2 | UCLA | 1/0/5/5 | D3 22 | D3 GB 22 | Lousy camp, then suspended for violating performance-enhancing substances policy. |
| **76** | **Runyan, Jon (RG)** | **6-4** | **307** | **4** | **Michigan** | **17/17** | **D6 20** | **D6 GB 20** | **Started at LG in 2021, RG last year and has become a staple of the unit.** |
| 78 | Tenuta, Luke (T) | 6-8 | 314 | 2 | Virginia Tech | 3/0/3/10 | W,IND 22 | D6 BUFF 22 | Huge man (6-8, 314) who was claimed off waivers midway through 2022 campaign. |
| **50** | **Tom, Zach (RT)** | **6-4** | **304** | **2** | **Wake Forest** | **9/5/8/0** | **D4 22** | **D4 GB 22** | **Versatile lineman who will be given every chance to win the right-tackle position.** |
| 63 | Walker, Rasheed (T) | 6-6 | 324 | 2 | Penn State | 1/0/6/10 | D7 22 | D7 GB 22 | Seventh round pick in 2022 draft who appeared in just one game last season. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 | Dillon, AJ | 6-0 | 247 | 4 | Boston College | 17/3 | D2 20 | D2 GB 20 | Big, bruising back who is in the final year of his rookie contract. |
| **33** | **Jones, Aaron** | **5-9** | **208** | **7** | **Texas-El Paso** | **17/17** | **D5 17** | **D5 GB 17** | **Ran for a career high 1,121 yards last year and caught career-best 59 passes.** |
| 32 | Nichols III, Lew | 5-10 | 220 | R | Central Michigan | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 GB 23 | Dominant player at Central Michigan in 2021, but slipped in 2022. |
| 27 | Taylor, Patrick | 6-2 | 217 | 3 | Memphis | 14/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA GB 20 | Averaging only 3.6 yards per attempt on 33 career carries. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Clifford, Sean | 6-2 | 218 | R | Penn State | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 GB 23 | After record-setting collegiate career, should be front-runner to win backup job. |
| 19 | Etling, Danny | 6-3 | 220 | 1 | Louisiana State | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D7 NE 18 | Seventh-round pick in 2018 now playing for his eighth NFL team. |
| **10** | **Love, Jordan** | **6-4** | **219** | **4** | **Utah State** | **4/0/13/0** | **D1 20** | **D1 GB 20** | **After sitting for three years, Packers believe he's ready to be next great QB.** |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 94 | Brooks, Karl (T) | 6-3 | 296 | R | Bowling Green | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 GB 23 | Was a dominant force against lower-level competition in college. |
| **97** | **Clark, Kenny (NT)** | **6-3** | **314** | **8** | **UCLA** | **17/17** | **D1 16** | **D1 GB 16** | **Two-time Pro Bowler begins eighth season and is still only 27-years-old.** |
| 99 | Ford, Jonathan (T) | 6-5 | 338 | 2 | Miami | 0/0/0/17 | D7 22 | D7 GB 22 | Enormous man (6-5, 338) was a healthy scratch all 17 games last season. |
| 93 | Slaton, T.J. (NT) | 6-4 | 330 | 3 | Florida | 17/2 | D5 21 | D5 GB 21 | Powerful 330-pound space-eater made strides in Year 2; will be counted on for more. |
| **96** | **Wooden, Colby (E)** | **6-4** | **273** | **R** | **Auburn** | **0/0** | **D4 23** | **D4 GB 23** | **Athletic, explosive rookie defensive end will have a chance to start from Day 1.** |
| **95** | **Wyatt, Devonte (E)** | **6-3** | **304** | **2** | **Georgia** | **16/0/0/1** | **D1 22** | **D1 GB 22** | **First-round pick in 2022 must make dramatic jump after disappointing rookie year.** |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **59** | **Campbell, De'Vondre (I)** | **6-3** | **232** | **8** | **Minnesota** | **13/13/0/4** | **FA 21** | **D4 ATL 16** | **Former street free agent has given the Packers two straight terrific seasons.** |
| 24 | Carpenter, Tariq (I) | 6-3 | 230 | 2 | Georgia Tech | 14/0/1/2 | D7 22 | D7 GB 22 | Safety/linebacker hybrid who gave the special-teams units a boost. |
| 55 | Enagbare, Kingsley (I) | 6-4 | 258 | 2 | South Carolina | 17/7 | D5 22 | D5 GB 22 | Surprising rookie year in which he posted three sacks, five TFLs, eight QB hits. |
| 53 | Garvin, Jonathan (O) | 6-4 | 257 | 4 | Miami | 14/0/0/3 | D7 20 | D7 GB 20 | Has failed to win No. 3 OLB position multiple times and could be out of chances. |
| **52** | ***Gary, Rashan (O)** | **6-5** | **277** | **5** | **Michigan** | **9/9/0/0** | **D1 19** | **D1 GB 19** | **Had six sacks and 27 pressures last year before suffering torn ACL in Week 10.** |
| 54 | Hamilton, Ladarius (O) | 6-2 | 261 | 2 | North Texas | 3/0/0/0 | FA Z3 | CFA DALL 20 | Has bounced between practice squad and active roster (nine games) last two years. |
| 47 | Hollins, Justin (O) | 6-5 | 248 | 5 | Oregon | 16/5/0/0 | W,LAR 22 | D5 DEN 19 | Claimed off waivers at mid-season; then had 2.5 sacks and three TFLs in six games. |
| 58 | McDuffie, Isaiah (I) | 6-1 | 227 | 3 | Boston College | 17/1 | D6 21 | D6 GD 21 | Led team with 13 special-teams tackles and proved a capable backup at ILB. |
| **91** | **Smith, Preston (O)** | **6-5** | **265** | **9** | **Mississippi State** | **17/17** | **UFA,WSH 19** | **D2 WSH 15** | **Joins T.J. Watt with at least 50 sacks/five INTs/five forced fumbles since 2015.** |
| 90 | Van Ness, Lukas | 6-5 | 272 | R | Iowa | 0/0 | D1 23 | D1 GB 23 | First-round draft pick will be thrust into lineup immediately if Gary isn't back. |
| **7** | **Walker, Quay (I)** | **6-4** | **241** | **2** | **Georgia** | **17/16** | **D1 22** | **D1 GB 22** | **Fast (4.52), dynamic player who must learn to control his emotions.** |
| 45 | Wilson, Eric (I) | 6-1 | 230 | 7 | Cincinnati | 13/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA MINN 17 | Tied for first last season in special-teams tackles (13). |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **23** | **Alexander, Jaire (CB)** | **5-10** | **196** | **6** | **Louisville** | **16/16/0/1** | **D1 18** | **D1 GB 18** | **Elite corner played up to his standing as the NFL's highest-paid cornerback.** |
| 35 | Ballentine, Corey (CB) | 5-11 | 196 | 5 | Washburn | 8/0/0/0 | FA 22 | D6 NYG 19 | Promoted to active roster at mid-season and gave special teams a boost. |
| **29** | **Douglas, Rasul (CB)** | **6-2** | **209** | **7** | **West Virginia** | **17/12** | **FA 21** | **D3 PHA 17** | **Has nine interceptions and 26 passes defensed in last two seasons.** |
| 20 | Ford, Rudy (S) | 6-0 | 210 | 6 | Auburn | 17/6 | FA 22 | D6 ARIZ 17 | Started six games at safety last year and posted career-best three interceptions. |
| 38 | Gaines, Innis (S) | 6-2 | 215 | 2 | Texas Christian | 7/1/0/0 | FA 22 | FA GB 21 | Signed to practice squad last October, then appeared in seven games. |
| 22 | Jean-Charles, Shemar (CB) | 5-10 | 184 | 3 | Appalachian State | 6/0/0/11 | D5 21 | D5 GB 21 | Small-school player who played small when given the chance last season. |
| 36 | Johnson Jr., Anthony (S) | 6-0 | 205 | R | Iowa State | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 GB 23 | Played corner and safety in college and could make splash on special teams. |
| 6 | Leavitt, Dallin (S) | 5-10 | 195 | 5 | Utah State | 17/0 | FA 22 | CFA OAK 18 | Heart and soul of special-teams unit; finished tied for team lead with 13 tackles. |
| **30** | **Moore, Tarvarius (S)** | **6-1** | **200** | **6** | **Southern Mississippi** | **13/0/0/4** | **UFA,SF 23** | **D3 SF 18** | **Largely a reserve safety with 49ers; will look for greater role in Green Bay.** |
| 25 | Nixon, Keisean (CB) | 5-10 | 200 | 5 | South Carolina | 17/4 | FA 22 | CFA OAK 19 | Cinderella story who led the NFL with an average of 28.8 yards per kickoff return. |
| **26** | **Savage, Darnell (S)** | **5-11** | **198** | **5** | **Maryland** | **16/13/0/1** | **D1 19** | **D1 GB 19** | **Former first-round pick was benched last year and faces a career crossroad.** |
| 21 | *Stokes, Eric (CB) | 6-0 | 194 | 3 | Georgia | 9/9/0/0 | D1 21 | D1 GB 21 | Played better in 2021 than 2022, then suffered season-ending knee, ankle injuries. |
| 37 | Valentine, Carrington (CB) | 6-0 | 189 | R | Kentucky | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 GB 23 | Late-round draft pick has the size, speed necessary to make the roster. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | Carlson, Anders (K) | 6-5 | 219 | R | Auburn | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 GB 23 | Sixth-round rookie kicker is the front-runner to replace veteran Mason Crosby. |
| 56 | Coco, Jack (LS) | 6-2 | 248 | 2 | Georgia Tech | 17/0 | CFA 22 | CFA GB 22 | Handled snapping duties on all punts and placements last year, but was up and down. |
| 16 | O'Donnell, Pat (P) | 6-4 | 229 | 10 | Miami | 17/0 | UFA,CHI 22 | D6 CHI 14 | Ranked 31st in net yardage (38.9) and 29th in gross (44.5) last season. |
| 42 | Orzech, Matthew (LS) | 6-3 | 245 | 4 | Azusa Pacific | 17/0 | UFA,LAR 23 | CFA BLT 19 | Front-runner at long snapper after receiving $300K signing bonus. |
| 48 | White, Parker (K) | 6-4 | 207 | R | South Carolina | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | FA GB 23 | All-time leading scorer at South Carolina will compete for kicking job. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Jeff Cotton Jr. (1, Idaho), Malik Heath (Mississippi), Duece Watts (Tulane); TEs Austin Allen (1, Nebraska), Nick Guggemos (1, St. Thomas, Minnesota), Camren McDonald (Florida State); Ts Jean Delance (1, Florida), Kadeem Telfort (Alabama-Birmingham); G Chuck Filiaga (Minnesota); RB Tyler Goodson (1, Iowa); FB/TE Henry Pearson (Appalachian State); DE Jason Lewan (Illinois State); DTs Kenneth Odumegwu (None), Chris Slayton (1, Syracuse); LBs Keshawn Banks (San Diego State), Brenton Cox (Florida), Jimmy Phillips Jr. (Southern Methodist); CBs Tyrell Ford (Waterloo, Canada), Benjie Franklin (1, Tarleton State), Kiondre Thomas (1, Kansas State); Ss James Wiggins (2, Cincinnati), Benny Sapp III (Northern Iowa)

Center Josh Myers and right guard Jon Runyan had solid seasons and both should continue to improve. Yosh Nijman started 11 games at right tackle, but gave up five sacks and was penalized 10 times. He'll be challenged in training camp by Zach Tom, who gave up just one sack in 489 offensive snaps last year. Royce Newman, Jake Hanson and Sean Rhyan provide quality depth.

RATING: 8

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

This group will look dramatically different after defensive ends Dean Lowry and Jarran Reed left in free agency. Kenny Clark remains the anchor and has the versatility to play both end and tackle. Clark is a two-time Pro Bowler who has led or tied for the lead on the defensive line in tackles all seven years he's been with the Packers.

Defensive end Devonte Wyatt, a first-round draft pick in 2022, will take on an increased role after a quiet rookie season. Rookie defensive end Colby Wooden has the athleticism and explosiveness to crack the lineup immediately. Gigantic nose tackle T.J. Slaton (6-4, 330) also figures to see an increased role.

RATING: 7

## LINEBACKERS

This could be a dominant unit if Rashan Gary makes a full recovery from his torn ACL. Gary, the 12th pick in the 2019 draft, is a rising star who had 17.5 sacks, 43 quarterback hits and 18 tackles for loss in a 26-game stretch before his injury. Veteran Preston Smith had a solid year with 8.5 sacks and 20 quarterback hits, while big things will be expected from rookie first-rounder Lukas Van Ness.

Inside linebacker Quay Walker led the Packers and ranked No. 2 among NFL rookies with 119 total tackles in 2022. But Walker also became the first player in NFL history to be ejected from two games in the same season. Veteran De'Vondre Campbell was a Pro Bowler in 2021, then finished third on the team in tackles last year (96).

RATING: 6.5

## SECONDARY

The Packers ranked sixth in the league in passing yards allowed, but 14th in opposing passer rating (88.3). The trio of cornerbacks Jaire Alexander, Rasul Douglas and Eric Stokes rivals any in football. Alexander had a career-high five interceptions last year and a team-best 14 passes defensed. Douglas, signed off Arizona's practice squad in 2021, continued to shine with four interceptions and 13 passes defensed. Stokes didn't play as well as his 2021 rookie season, then suffered season-ending ankle and knee injuries midway through the year.

The safety position is a problem, where Adrian Amos wasn't re-signed and Darnell Savage was benched last year. Savage, an incredibly athletic but awful tackling fifth-year player, will be given every opportunity to win back his job. Veterans Rudy Ford and Tarvarius Moore will also compete for a starting spot.

RATING: 7

## SPECIAL TEAMS

First-year special-teams coordinator Rich Bisaccia got these units headed in the right direction last year, as they moved from 32nd to No. 22 overall in Rick Gosselin's rankings. The key to Green Bay's jump was return ace Keisean Nixon, who ranked first in the league with an average of 28.8 yards per kickoff return and had a 105-yard touchdown.

The Packers drafted rookie Anders Carlson to replace Mason Crosby, the franchise's all-time scoring leader. Punter Pat O'Donnell was so-so, while free-agent acquisition Matt Orzech is the front-runner at long snapper.

RATING: 6

## INTANGIBLES

Many prognosticators have the Packers picked to finish last in the NFC North. Green Bay hasn't finished last since 2005 and should be motivated all season to prove the doubters wrong.

RATING: Plus-1

— Rob Reischel

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. LaFleur's offense. Former quarterback Aaron Rodgers changed a large percentage of head coach Matt LaFleur's plays at the line of scrimmage. That won't happen with Jordan Love and the world now gets to see how LaFleur's offense really looks.

2. Love's growth. The Packers have raved all offseason how Jordan Love is ready to be QB1. Love has made dramatic growth since his rookie year, but has also made just one career start. His story should be fascinating.

3. Getting defensive. Green Bay has used 12 of its last 13 first-round draft picks on defense, yet the unit remains mediocre. The Packers could start as many as eight first-rounders on defense this year, and with questions on offense, Green Bay's defense must shine.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 8-9**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | at Minnesota | 7-23 |
| Sept. 18 | CHICAGO | 27-10 |
| Sept. 25 | at Tampa Bay | 14-12 |
| Oct. 2 | NEW ENGLAND (OT) | 27-24 |
| Oct. 9 | N.Y. GIANTS | 22-27 |
| Oct. 16 | N.Y. JETS | 10-27 |
| Oct. 23 | at Washington | 21-23 |
| Oct. 30 | at Buffalo | 17-27 |
| Nov. 6 | at Detroit | 9-15 |
| Nov. 13 | DALLAS (OT) | 31-28 |
| Nov. 17 | TENNESSEE | 17-27 |
| Nov. 27 | at Philadelphia | 33-40 |
| Dec. 4 | at Chicago | 28-19 |
| Dec. 19 | L.A. RAMS | 24-12 |
| Dec. 25 | at Miami | 26-20 |
| Jan. 1 | MINNESOTA | 41-17 |
| Jan. 8 | DETROIT | 16-20 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Central**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | at Cincinnati | TBD |
| Aug. 17-21 | NEW ENGLAND | TBD |
| Aug. 24-27 | SEATTLE | TBD |
| Sept. 10 | at Chicago | 3:25 |
| Sept. 17 | at Atlanta | 12:00 |
| Sept. 24 | NEW ORLEANS | 12:00 |
| Sept. 28 | DETROIT (Thu) | 7:15 |
| Oct. 9 | at Las Vegas (Mon) | 7:15 |
| | BYE | |
| Oct. 22 | at Denver | 3:25 |
| Oct. 29 | MINNESOTA | 12:00 |
| Nov. 5 | L.A. RAMS | 12:00 |
| Nov. 12 | at Pittsburgh | 12:00 |
| Nov. 19 | L.A. CHARGERS | 12:00 |
| Nov. 23 | at Detroit (Thu) | 11:30 |
| Dec. 3 | KANSAS CITY | 7:20 |
| Dec. 11 | at N.Y. Giants (Mon) | 7:15 |
| Dec. 17 | TAMPA BAY | 12:00 |
| Dec. 24 | at Carolina | 12:00 |
| Dec. 31 | at Minnesota | 7:20 |
| TBD | CHICAGO | TBD |

# MINNESOTA VIKINGS

## Can Vikings Continue Winning Close Games?

Are the Vikings pretenders or contenders? That question might be better answered in 2023.

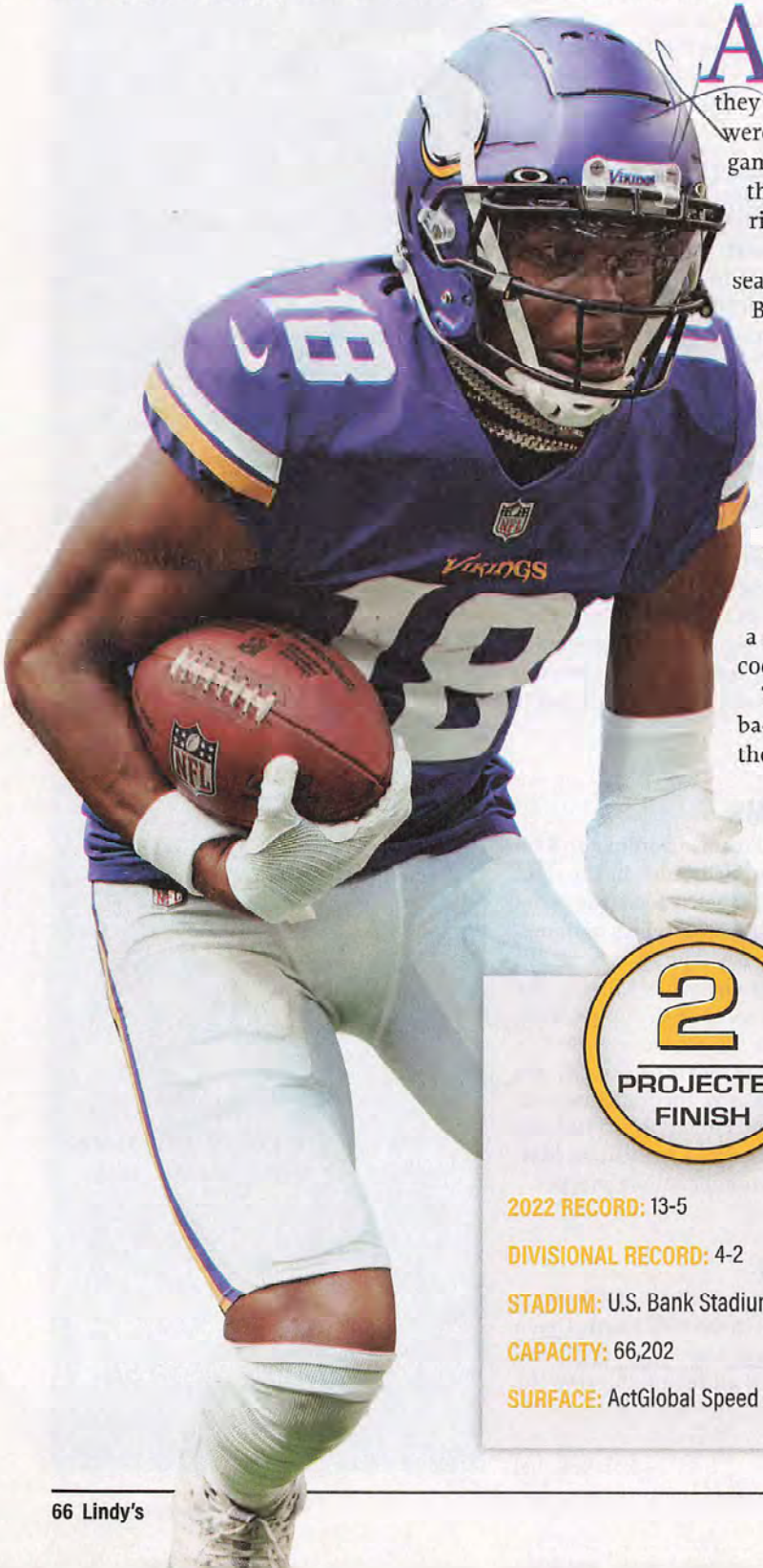
The Vikings in 2022 went 13-4 and won the NFC North. But they went an astounding 11-0 in one-score games, and in their losses were outscored an average of 22.3 points. Minnesota's luck in close games ran out in the playoffs. The Vikings lost 31-24 at home to the New York Giants, and some naysayers claimed they had been right in saying the team was overrated.

Now the Vikings will try to show that at least the 2022 regular season under first-year head coach Kevin O'Connell was no fluke. But they must do it after losing some key veteran players. With the Vikings having salary-cap issues, wide receiver Adam Thielen and linebacker Eric Kendricks were released and free-agent defensive lineman Dalvin Tomlinson and cornerback Patrick Peterson were not re-signed.

There is talent that remains, namely on offense. Kirk Cousins set an NFL quarterback record by leading eight fourth-quarter comebacks. Justin Jefferson, with 128 catches for 1,809 yards, showed he is the NFL's best receiver. And left tackle Christian Darrisaw is emerging as a star.

How far Minnesota goes in 2023 likely will depend on fixing a unit that ranked No. 31 in the NFL in total defense. Defensive coordinator Ed Donatell was fired and replaced by Brian Flores.

The Vikings helped the defense by signing free-agent cornerback Byron Murphy Jr. and pass rusher Marcus Davenport. And they did retain star safety Harrison Smith after he took a pay cut.



**Justin Jefferson**
Photo by Joe Robbins

**2**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 13-5

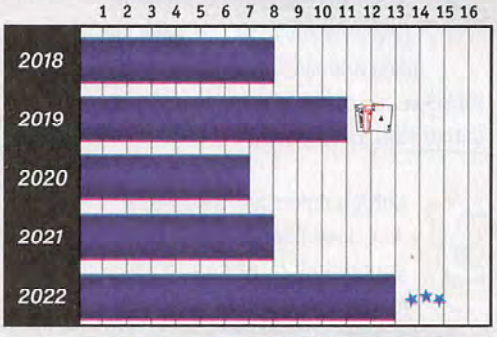
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 4-2

**STADIUM:** U.S. Bank Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 66,202

**SURFACE:** ActGlobal Speed S5

**WINS PER YEAR**



## AT A GLANCE

2600 VIKINGS CIRCLE
EAGAN, MN 55121
(952) 828-6500
WEBSITE: WWW.VIKINGS.COM

**TRAINING CAMP:** Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center, Eagan, MN
**HEAD COACH:** Kevin O'Connell
- 2nd season as Vikings/NFL head coach
- 13-5 overall; 0-1 postseason

**SR. VP PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Ryan Grigson
**DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Ryan Monnens
**SENIOR PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE:** Jamaal Stephenson
**DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Mike Sholiton
**DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:** Chris Blanco

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mike Pettine | Assistant head coach | 21 | 2 |
| Wes Phillips | Offensive coordinator | 17 | 2 |
| Chris O'Hara | Quarterbacks | 10 | 2 |
| Grant Udinski | Asst. quarterbacks | 4 | 2 |
| Chris Kuper | Offensive line | 8 | 2 |
| Justin Rascati | Assistant line | 5 | 2 |
| Curtis Modkins | *Running backs | 16 | 2 |
| Keenan McCardell | Receivers | 9 | 3 |
| Tony Sorrentino | Asst. receivers | 6 | 2 |
| Brian Angelichio | @Tight ends | 12 | 2 |
| Ryan Cordell | #Pass game specialist | 10 | 2 |
| Derron Montgomery | Off. quality control | 2 | 2 |
| Brian Flores | Defensive coordinator | 19 | 1 |
| Chris Rumph | Defensive line | 4 | 2 |
| Pat Hill | Assistant line | 1 | 1 |
| Mike Smith | &Outside linebackers | 11 | 2 |
| Mike Siravo | Inside linebackers | 4 | 1 |
| Thad Bogardus | Asst. inside linebackers | 10 | 1 |
| Daronte Jones | Defensive backs | 7 | 3 |
| Michael Hutchings | Asst. defensive back | 1 | 1 |
| Imarjaye Albury Sr. | Defensive assistant | 4 | 4 |
| Lance Bennett | Defensive qual.control | 4 | 1 |
| Matt Daniels | Special teams coord. | 6 | 2 |
| Dalmin Gibson | Asst. special teams | 1 | 1 |
| Tyler Williams | Exec./dir. Health/perf. | 17 | 2 |
| Remi Famodu-Jackson | Head perf./dietician | 5 | 5 |
| Josh Hingst | Dir. player performance | 15 | 3 |
| Derik Keyes | Asst. player performance | 12 | 7 |
| Marquis Johnson | Asst. player performance | 5 | 4 |
| Dan Ridenour | Asst. player perf./SC | 2 | 2 |

*Offensive run game coordinator
@Offensive pass game coordinator
#Game management coordinator &Pass rush specialist

## VIKINGS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/32 | Lewis Cine | S | Backup |
| 2021 | 1/23 | Christian Darrisaw | T | Starter |
| 2020 | 1/22 | Justin Jefferson | WR | Starter |
| 2019 | 1/18 | Garrett Bradbury | C | Starter |
| 2018 | 1/30 | Mike Hughes | CB | Falcons |

## COACHING

There were some questions about O'Connell after he had not called plays during two previous seasons as the Los Angeles Rams' offensive coordinator. But he proved to be adept in that role in his first year in Minnesota. The easygoing O'Connell also turned around the team's culture after players often were on edge under abrasive former head coach Mike Zimmer.

The Vikings beefed up the staff by hiring Flores, a former NFL head coach, as defensive coordinator. But he will face a big challenge trying to turn around a defense that has been dreadful for three straight seasons. Offensive coordinator Wes Phillips could one day follow being a head coach after grandfather Bum Phillips and father Wade Phillips. Special-teams coordinator Matt Daniels was solid in his first season.

**RATING: 7.5**

## QUARTERBACKS

The Vikings opted during the offseason not to extend Cousins' contract past 2023 so he could be entering a lame duck season. Cousins has been a polarizing figure in five seasons with the Vikings while going 45-33-1 as a starter. He has just two playoff appearances and one playoff win with them. Last season looked to be an opportune time for Cousins to quiet some naysayers, but they lost their playoff opener at home to the Giants.

Cousins' stats were down in 2022. Still, he passed for 4,547 yards and 29 touchdowns and made his fourth Pro Bowl. Backup Nate Mullens is capable, but not considered a candidate to ever replace Cousins unless there is an injury. In the fifth round of the draft, Minnesota took Jaren Hall as a quarterback to develop.

**RATING: 7.5**

## RUNNING BACKS

Dalvin Cook in 2022 became the third player in Minnesota history with four straight 1,000-yard rushing seasons by gaining 1,173. But Cook, 28, showed some signs of decline and averaged a career-low 4.4 yards per carry.

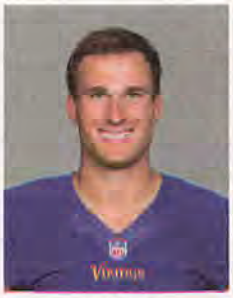
The Vikings re-signed free agent Alexander Mattison, who is three years younger than Cook, and he looks to be in line to take over at some point as the feature back. Mattison had six starts in his first four seasons when Cook was out, and he has three career 100-yard outings.

The Vikings like their backfield depth although two young players are unproven.

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

Despite a 13-win season, there were plenty of comings and goings in Minnesota during the offseason. In just his second year on the job, GM Kwesi Adofo-Mensah has managed to nearly churn the entire roster since taking the reins. One consistent on the team has been WR **K.J. Osborn**. After biding his time patiently as a rookie returner, Osborn has made nine starts in each of the past two seasons, with at least 650 receiving yards and five touchdowns. He finally appears to be the clear No. 2, which means his first 1,000-yard campaign is within reach. ... The Vikings hired defensive coordinator Brian Flores to help gel the influx of new faces in recent seasons. In the secondary, two players expected to flourish under the new highly aggressive scheme are CB **Andrew Booth Jr.** and FS **Lewis Cine**. Both players were severely limited as rookies a year ago due to injury. However, head coach Kevin O'Connell has acknowledged that both players are in line for a "huge" season in 2023. If so, when combined with the emergence of third-year FS **Camryn Bynum** and free-agent addition CB Byron Murphy Jr, the Vikings could have one of the most improved defenses in the NFL.

## ON THE HOT SEAT



KIRK COUSINS

Could Cousins' run in Minnesota come to an end after the 2023 season?

The Vikings signed Cousins to a three-year, $84 million contract in 2018, to a two-year, $66 million extension in 2020 and then to a one-year, $35 million extension in 2022. But after deals totaling $185 million, he is due to become a free agent after the 2023 season.

The Vikings have not ruled out Cousins, 35, being their quarterback beyond 2023, but they might not want to pay him a salary that could be in excess of $40 million a year. A top-notch season could get the Vikings to consider paying him big bucks, but a lesser showing could lead to his exit after six Minnesota years.

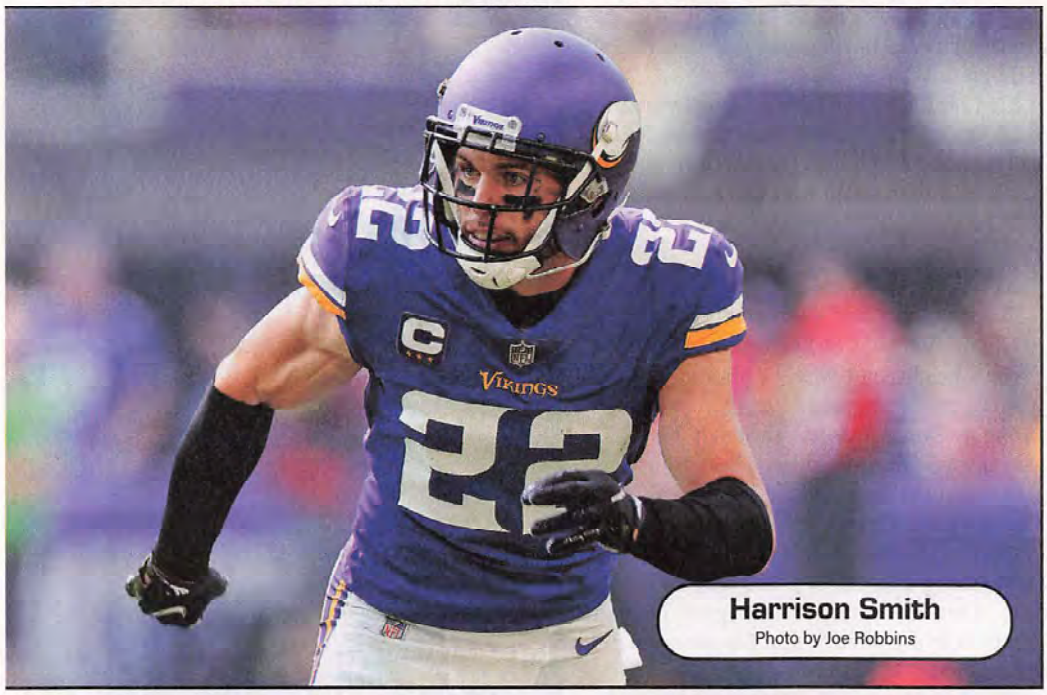
# VIKINGS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Addison, Jordan | 6-0 | 175 | R | Southern Cal | 0/0 | D1 23 | D1 MINN 23 | The 6-0, 175-pound rookie is undersized, but says he runs routes like "an artist." |
| 82 | *Ellefson, Ben (TE) | 6-3 | 250 | 4 | North Dakota State | 4/1/0/1 | FA 23 | CFA JAX 20 | Has been bogged down by injuries the past two years, but Vikings like blocking skills. |
| **87** | **Hockenson, T.J. (TE)** | **6-5** | **248** | **4** | **Iowa** | **17/14** | **T,DET 22** | **D1 DET 19** | **Vikings hit it big with their midseason acquisition from Lions of a legitimate star.** |
| **18** | **Jefferson, Justin** | **6-1** | **195** | **4** | **Louisiana State** | **17/17** | **D1 20** | **D1 MINN 20** | **Has spent his first three years breaking records and could be many more on the way.** |
| 86 | Mundt, Johnny (TE) | 6-4 | 233 | 6 | Oregon | 17/12 | UFA,LAR 22 | CFA LAR 17 | Solid blocker who had 19 catches in 2022; nearly double his 10 in first five years. |
| 34 | Muse, Nick (TE) | 6-5 | 252 | 2 | South Carolina | 10/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D7 MINN 22 | Played only on special teams in 10 games as a rookie and still has plenty to prove. |
| 83 | Nailor, Jalen | 6-0 | 190 | 2 | Michigan State | 15/0/0/2 | D6 22 | D6 MINN 22 | Speedy 2022 draftee gets chance for more playing time with departure of Adam Thielen. |
| 84 | Oliver, Josh (TE) | 6-5 | 259 | 5 | San Jose State | 17/9 | UFA,BLT 23 | D3 JAX 19 | Vikings addition in free agency is elite blocker, but vows to be receiving threat. |
| **17** | **Osborn, K.J. (RS)** | **5-11** | **203** | **4** | **Miami** | **17/9** | **D5 20** | **D5 MINN 20** | **Caught 60 passes in 2022 after 50 in 2021 and could become the No. 2 wide receiver.** |
| 19 | Powell, Brandon | 5-8 | 181 | 6 | Florida | 17/6 | UFA,LAR 23 | CFA DET 18 | Reunited with Vikings head coach Kevin O'Connell, his Rams OC in 2021. |
| 5 | Reagor, Jalen | 5-11 | 197 | 4 | Texas Christian | 17/0 | T,PHA 22 | D1 PHA 20 | Caught only eight passes in first Vikings season while being primary punt returner. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **56** | **Bradbury, Garrett (C)** | **6-3** | **300** | **5** | **North Carolina State** | **12/12/0/5** | **D1 19** | **D1 MINN 19** | **Vikings didn't pick up 2023 contract option, but got new deal with solid 2022 season.** |
| 64 | Brandel, Blake (T) | 6-7 | 315 | 3 | Oregon State | 9/3/4/0 | FA 21 | D6 MINN 20 | After spending his 2020 rookie season on practice squad has made steady improvement. |
| **72** | **Cleveland, Ezra (LG)** | **6-6** | **312** | **4** | **Boise State** | **17/17** | **D2 20** | **D2 MINN 20** | **Has been under the radar in three seasons, but slowly developing into a top NFL guard.** |
| **71** | **Darrisaw, Christian (DT)** | **6-5** | **315** | **3** | **Virginia Tech** | **14/14/0/3** | **D1 21** | **D1 MINN 21** | **Has had injury issues, but has the potential to become one of NFL's best left tackles.** |
| **67** | **Ingram, Ed (RG)** | **6-3** | **307** | **2** | **Louisiana State** | **17/17** | **D2 22** | **D2 MINN 22** | **Second-round pick made plenty of rookie mistakes in 2022, but Vikings like potential.** |
| 79 | Lowe, Vederian (T) | 6-6 | 320 | 2 | Illinois | 4/0/0/13 | D6 22 | D6 MINN 22 | The 6-6, 320-pound sixth-round pick in 2022 is very big, but he has a long ways to go. |
| **75** | ***O'Neill, Brian (RT)** | **6-7** | **310** | **6** | **Pittsburgh** | **16/16/0/0** | **D2 18** | **D2 MINN 18** | **After Pro-Bowl season in 2021, must work way back from Achilles injury in late 2022.** |
| 62 | Reed, Chris (G) | 6-3 | 314 | 8 | Minnesota State-Mankato | 7/1/0/10 | UFA,IND 22 | CFA JAX 15 | Versatile lineman can play both guard spots and he saw reserve center duty in 2022. |
| 65 | *Schlottmann, Austin (G/C) | 6-6 | 300 | 5 | Texas Christian | 16/4/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA DEN 18 | Solid subbing at center for injured Bradbury in 2022 before suffering broken fibula. |
| 74 | Udoh, Olisaemeka (T) | 6-6 | 320 | 5 | Elon | 17/1 | D6 19 | D6 MINN 19 | Was the primary starter in 2021 at right guard, but best suited as a reserve tackle. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 32 | Chandler, Ty | 5-11 | 204 | 2 | North Carolina | 3/0/0/4 | D5 22 | D5 MINN 22 | Didn't get much work as a rookie, but Vikings believe versatile back has good future. |
| **4** | **Cook, Dalvin** | **5-10** | **210** | **7** | **Florida State** | **17/17** | **D2 17** | **D2 MINN 17** | **Had fourth straight 1,000-yard rushing season, but showing some signs of wearing down.** |
| **30** | **Ham, C.J. (FB)** | **5-11** | **250** | **7** | **Augustana, S.D.** | **17/4** | **FA 16** | **CFA MINN 16** | **Team captain is a special-teams ace, good blocker and at times can gain some yards.** |
| 2 | Mattison, Alexander | 5-11 | 215 | 5 | Boise State | 17/0 | D3 19 | D3 MINN 19 | Re-signed after four seasons as reserve, but now expected to have a bigger role. |
| 37 | McBride, DeWayne | 5-10 | 209 | R | Alabama-Birmingham | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 MINN 23 | Rookie from UAB ran for a whopping 1,713 yards in 2022 while averaging 7.4 per carry. |
| 26 | Nwangwu, Kene | 6-1 | 210 | 3 | Iowa State | 17/0 | D4 21 | D4 MINN 21 | While one of the NFL's top kickoff returners, still must prove himself as a runner. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **8** | **Cousins, Kirk** | **6-3** | **205** | **12** | **Michigan State** | **17/17** | **UFA,WSH 18** | **D4 WSH 12** | **Entering final year of deal, might need at least one playoff win to be back in 2024.** |
| 16 | Hall, Jaren | 6-0 | 207 | R | Brigham Young | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 MINN 23 | At 25, rookie provides plenty of maturity as a quarterback being groomed for future. |
| 12 | Mullens, Nick | 6-1 | 210 | 5 | Southern Mississippi | 4/0/13/0 | T,LV 22 | CFA SF 17 | Considered capable backup, but not regarded as possible eventual Cousins replacement. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 96 | Blacklock, Ross (T) | 6-5 | 307 | 4 | Texas Christian | 11/0/0/6 | T,HOUS 22 | D2 HOUS 20 | Provided little after trade from Houston; not starting a game and inactive last six. |
| **93** | **Bullard, Jonathan (E)** | **6-3** | **290** | **8** | **Florida** | **12/7/0/1** | **FA 22** | **D3 CHI 16** | **Journeyman had played with five teams in five seasons, but was re-signed by Vikings.** |
| 52 | Day, Sheldon (T) | 6-1 | 294 | 6 | Notre Dame | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D4 JAX 16 | Enters seventh season, but didn't get into any 2022 games while on the practice squad. |
| **94** | ***Lowry, Dean (E)** | **6-6** | **296** | **8** | **Northwestern** | **15/12/0/0** | **UFA,GB 23** | **D4 GB 16** | **After a half-sack season with Packers, seeks return to 2021 form, when he had five.** |
| 92 | Lynch, James (T) | 6-4 | 295 | 3 | Baylor | 15/2/0/2 | D4 20 | D4 MINN 20 | Rugged fourth-year man continues to improve and could be in for bigger role in 2023. |
| 90 | Otomewo, Esezi (E) | 6-5 | 282 | 2 | Minnesota | 5/0/0/12 | D5 22 | D5 MINN 22 | Was drafted out of the University of Minnesota as a project and still has work to do. |
| **97** | **Phillips, Harrison (NT)** | **6-3** | **307** | **5** | **Stanford** | **17/17** | **UFA,BUFF 22** | **D3 BUFF 18** | **Made immediate impact as a rugged nose tackle after leaving Buffalo as a free agent.** |
| 78 | Roy, Jaquelin (T) | 6-3 | 305 | R | Louisiana State | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 MINN 23 | The 305-pounder is big, stout and powerful, but not that quick on the line. |
| 95 | Tonga, Khyiris (T) | 6-4 | 338 | 3 | Brigham Young | 11/2/0/2 | FA 22 | D7 CHI 21 | Taken off Atlanta's practice squad; was a surprise and started two late-season games. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **33** | **Asamoah II, Brian (I)** | **6-0** | **226** | **2** | **Oklahoma** | **16/0/0/1** | **D3 22** | **D3 MINN 22** | **Athletic second-year man primed to take over as starter for departed Eric Kendricks.** |
| 0 | Davenport, Marcus (O) | 6-6 | 265 | 6 | Texas-San Antonio | 15/9/0/2 | UFA,NORL 23 | D1 NORL 18 | Saints enigma who had nine sacks in 11 games in 2021, but a half-sack in 15 in 2022. |
| 45 | Dye, Troy (I) | 6-3 | 225 | 4 | Oregon | 17/0 | D4 20 | D4 MINN 20 | Started five games as rookie in 2020, but mostly special-teams player last two years. |
| **58** | **Hicks, Jordan (I)** | **6-1** | **236** | **9** | **Texas** | **17/17** | **FA 22** | **D3 PHA 15** | **After leaving Arizona as a free agent, was a valuable leader in first Vikings season.** |
| **99** | **Hunter, Danielle (O)** | **6-5** | **263** | **9** | **Louisiana State** | **17/17** | **D3 15** | **D3 MINN 15** | **After injuries cost him 26 games in 2020 and 2021, returned to Pro-Bowl form in 2022.** |
| 91 | Jones II, Patrick (O) | 6-4 | 264 | 3 | Pittsburgh | 16/0/0/1 | D3 21 | D3 MINN 21 | Playing time was sporadic in second year, but showed some flashes and had four sacks. |
| 47 | Kwenkeu, William (I) | 6-1 | 235 | 2 | Temple | 6/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA MINN 22 | Rookie was impressive on special teams and promoted during year from practice squad. |
| 59 | Reeder, Troy (I) | 6-3 | 245 | 5 | Delaware | 17/0 | UFA,LAC 23 | CFA LAR 19 | Was solid with Rams from 2019-21, but mostly a Chargers special-teams player in 2022. |
| **55** | **Smith, Za'Darius (O)** | **6-4** | **272** | **9** | **Kentucky** | **16/16/0/1** | **FA 22** | **D4 BLT 15** | **Top pass rusher in first half of 2022 before a knee injury hampered him rest of way.** |
| 43 | Vilain, Luiji (O) | 6-4 | 252 | 2 | Wake Forest | 3/0/0/14 | CFA 22 | CFA MINN 22 | Pass rusher made the team as an undrafted rookie in 2022, but got in only three games. |
| 48 | *Willekes, Kenny (O) | 6-3 | 264 | 4 | Michigan State | 0/0/0/0 | FA 21 | D7 MINN 20 | Injuries cost him all of 2020 and 2022, but showed flashes in six 2021 games. |
| 98 | Wonnum, D.J. (O) | 6-5 | 258 | 3 | South Carolina | 16/1/0/1 | D4 20 | D4 MINN 20 | Has become a reliable rotation pass rusher and has 15 sacks in his three NFL seasons. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 | Barnes, Kalon (CB) | 6-0 | 186 | 1 | Baylor | 2/0/0/2 | FA 22 | D7 CARO 22 | Ran 40-yard dash in 4.23 seconds at the Combine, but still must learn fundamentals. |
| 11 | Blackmon, Mekhi (CB) | 5-11 | 178 | R | Southern Cal | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 MINN 23 | Has great maturity after six college years and was named All-Pac-12 at USC in 2022. |
| 23 | *Booth Jr., Andrew (CB) | 6-0 | 194 | 2 | Clemson | 6/1/0/5 | D2 22 | D2 MINN 22 | Had injuries and his share of struggles as a rookie, but Vikings still like potential. |
| **24** | **Bynum, Camryn (S)** | **6-0** | **200** | **3** | **California** | **17/17** | **D4 21** | **D4 MINN 21** | **A cornerback in college; played every defensive snap at safety in his second season.** |
| 6 | *Cine, Lewis (S) | 6-2 | 199 | 2 | Georgia | 3/0/0/1 | D1 22 | D1 MINN 22 | Looking to bounce back after having season-ending leg injury in fifth game as rookie. |
| **21** | ***Evans, Akayleb (CB)** | **6-2** | **198** | **2** | **Missouri** | **10/2/0/2** | **D4 22** | **D4 MINN 22** | **Looked like a fourth-round steal before multiple concussions ended his rookie season.** |
| 31 | Gowan, Tay (CB) | 6-2 | 185 | 2 | Central Florida | 3/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D6 ARIZ 21 | Signed just before start of season, got into only three games for special-teams duty. |
| 25 | Jackson, Theo (S) | 6-1 | 198 | 2 | Tennessee | 11/0/0/2 | FA 22 | D6 TENN 22 | Picked up midway through the 2022 season for safety depth; Vikings like his upside. |
| 44 | Metellus, Josh (S) | 5-11 | 207 | 4 | Michigan | 17/3 | FA 20 | D6 MINN 20 | The special-teams ace also proved to be a valuable Vikings reserve in 2022 at safety. |
| **7** | ***Murphy Jr., Byron (CB)** | **5-11** | **190** | **5** | **Washington** | **9/9/0/5** | **UFA,ARIZ 23** | **D2 ARIZ 19** | **Free-agent signee from Arizona a much-needed leader for Vikings' young cornerbacks.** |
| | Reid, John (CB) | 5-10 | 187 | 4 | Penn State | 3/1/0/1 | W,ATL 23 | D4 HOUS 20 | Veteran corner with fifth different team since being drafted in fourth round in 2020. |
| **22** | **Smith, Harrison (S)** | **6-2** | **211** | **12** | **Notre Dame** | **14/14/0/3** | **D1 12** | **D1 MINN 12** | **Has made six Pro Bowls, but he is 34 and took a pay cut after some slippage in 2022.** |
| 20 | Ward, Jay (S) | 6-1 | 188 | R | Louisiana State | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 MINN 23 | Three-year starter at LSU who has good range at safety, but must gain strength in NFL. |
| 29 | *Williams, Joejuan (CB) | 6-3 | 212 | 5 | Vanderbilt | 0/0/0/0 | UFA,NE 23 | D2 NE 19 | With team lacking in cornerback depth, free-agent signee could make immediate impact. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 42 | DePaola, Andrew (LS) | 6-1 | 229 | 9 | Rutgers | 17/0 | FA 21 | CFA TB 12 | Regarded as perhaps NFL's best long snapper after being All-Pro and making Pro Bowl. |
| 1 | Joseph, Greg (K) | 6-0 | 206 | 4 | Florida Atlantic | 17/0 | FA 21 | CFA MIA 18 | Beat Giants on 61-yarder and has great range, but still has periods of inconsistency. |
| 14 | Wright, Ryan (P) | 6-3 | 245 | 2 | Tulane | 17/0 | CFA 22 | CFA MINN 22 | Undrafted free agent out of Tulane had strong rookie season with some booming punts. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Trishton Jackson (2, Syracuse), Cephus Johnson III (Southeastern Louisiana), Malik Knowles (Kansas State), Blake Proehl (2, East Carolina), Thayer Thomas (N.C. State); TE Ben Sims (Baylor); C Josh Sokol (1, Sacred Heart); OL Alan Ali (TCU), Jacky Chen (Pace); DE Curtis Weaver (2, Boise State); DTs Calvin Avery (Illinois), T.J. Smith Jr. (1, Arkansas); LBs Abraham Beauplan (Marshall), Andre Carter II (Army), Wilson Huber (Cincinnati), Ivan Pace Jr. (Cincinnati), Benton Whitley (1, Holy Cross); CBs C.J. Coldon (Oklahoma), NaJee Thompson (Georgia Southern), Jaylin Williams (Indiana); K Jack Podlesny (Georgia)



Harrison Smith
Photo by Joe Robbins

Kene Nwangwu is a top-notch kickoff returner, but has just 22 carries in two seasons. And Ty Chandler had just six attempts as a 2022 rookie.

**RATING: 7.5**

## RECEIVERS

Jefferson boasted he would be the NFL's best receiver by the end of 2022, and he was right. Jefferson had a league-high 128 catches, 1,809 yards and about the only thing he didn't do was become the NFL's first 2,000-yard receiver.

With the departure of Thielen, K.J. Osborn could become the No. 2 wide receiver after catching 60 passes in 2022. However, he will face competition from rookie Jordan Addison, a slick route-runner selected in the first round.

Minnesota's No. 2 overall receiver is tight end T.J. Hockenson, who was acquired at the 2022 trade deadline from Detroit and made his second career Pro Bowl. He had 60 of his 86 catches for the Vikings. In free agency, Minnesota added a top blocking tight end in Josh Oliver.

**RATING: 8**

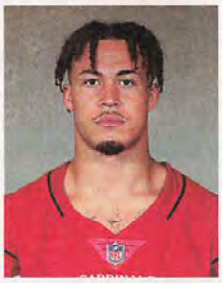
## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Vikings have been searching for years for stability on the offensive line, and they finally may have it. Minnesota is in line to return all five starters in left tackle Darrisaw, left guard Ezra Cleveland, center Garrett Bradbury, right guard Ed Ingram and right tackle Brian O'Neill. Darrisaw and Cleveland are candidates for the Pro Bowl and O'Neill made it in 2021.

Still, there remain some questions. Will Bradbury continue to play at the improved level he showed in 2022 after having had three previous disappointing seasons? Will Ingram show vast improvement after having plenty of rookie struggles in 2022? The Vikings also return most of their offensive

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

**KEY ADDITION**



**CB Byron Murphy Jr.**
When free agency began, Minnesota reached a deal to sign Murphy, an ascending player who played four years with Arizona. It was an important addition considering the struggles the Vikings have had recently at cornerback.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**
OLB Marcus Davenport, DE Dean Lowry, TE Josh Oliver, WR Brandon Powell, LB Troy Reeder, CB John Reid, CB Joejuan Williams

**KEY LOSS:**
**DT Dalvin Tomlinson (13/13)***
The Vikings lost several key players older than 30, but the departure of Tomlinson, 29, was a tough one. They wanted to retain the defensive lineman but couldn't compete with Cleveland's four-year, $57 million offer.

**OTHER LOSSES:**
CB Kris Boyd (17/0), **CB Cameron Dantzler (10/9)**, WR Bisi Johnson (0/0), **LB Eric Kendricks (17/17)**, **CB Patrick Peterson (17/17)**, S Duke Shelley (11/5), TE Irv Smith Jr. (9/1), **CB Chandon Sullivan (17/10)**, **WR Adam Thielen (17/17)***
**Total games played/started lost: 128/89**

**STARTERS RETURNING**
16: 10 offense, 6 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS

DANIELLE HUNTER

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kirk Cousins | 643 | 424 | 4547 | 29 | 14 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dalvin Cook | 264 | 1173 | 4.4 | 8 |
| Alexander Mattison | 74 | 283 | 3.8 | 5 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Justin Jefferson | 128 | 1809 | 14.1 | 8 |
| Adam Thielen | 70 | 716 | 10.2 | 6 |
| K.J. Osborn | 60 | 650 | 10.8 | 5 |
| T.J. Hockenson | 60 | 519 | 8.7 | 3 |

**Kicking:** Joseph 40/46 XPs, 26/33 FGs, 118 points
**Tackles:** Kendricks 137, Hicks 129, Smith 85
**Sacks:** Hunter 10.5, Smith 10, Jones II 4, Wonnum 4
**INTs:** Smith 5, Peterson 5, Bynum 2

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 361.5 | 7 |
| Passing Offense | 263.8 | 6 |
| Rushing Offense | 97.7 | T-27 |
| Points | 24.9 | 8 |
| Sacked | 47 | 25 |
| 3rd Down % | 41.2 | 12 |

| Defense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Defense | 388.7 | 31 |
| Passing Defense | 265.6 | 31 |
| Rushing Defense | 123.1 | 20 |
| Points Allowed | 25.1 | T-28 |
| INTs | 15 | T-10 |
| Sacks | 38 | T-21 |
| Turnover Diff. | +2 | T-12 |

line reserves. Among them are Oli Udoh, Austin Schlottmann and Chris Reed.

**RATING: 7.5**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Vikings suffered a big loss when run-stopper Tomlinson left as a free agent for Cleveland after two seasons. They did fill the spot with Dean Lowry, who had five sacks for Green Bay in 2021 before slipping to a half-sack in 2022. The leader of the line has become nose tackle Harrison Phillips. He provided stability in his first Minnesota season and could be even better in his second one.

There are several candidates to be the third starter on the line in Minnesota's 3-4 scheme. Jonathan Bullard started seven games last season and was re-signed. Khyiris Tonga came on strong late in the season after being plucked off Atlanta's practice squad. And James Lynch has been a steady performer.

**RATING: 6.5**

## LINEBACKERS

In the 3-4, Minnesota's top pass rushers are outside linebackers. And that's where teams must contend with Danielle Hunter. After previously making two Pro Bowls as a defensive end, he got his third nod in a 2022 stand-up role. The Vikings added a pass rusher in free agency in Davenport, who had nine sacks in 2021 with New Orleans before slipping to a half-sack in 2022. He joins a group of edge rushers that includes Za'Darius Smith, who had 9.5 sacks in the first nine games before being hampered by a knee injury and having just a half-sack the rest of the season.

At inside linebacker, athletic second-year man Brian Asamoah is expected to replace the departed Kendricks. And Jordan Hicks returns after he was second on the team with 129 tackles.

**RATING: 8**

## SECONDARY

The secondary had its share of struggles in 2022, and not a lot of help has arrived. One Vikings bright spot was the signing of free-agent cornerback Byron Murphy Jr. after four strong Arizona seasons, although his 2022 season was compromised by a back injury.

Minnesota's top five cornerbacks from 2022 are gone. But the Vikings hope Akayleb Evans and Andrew Booth Jr. can both come back strong after injury-riddled rookie seasons. They also signed free agent Joejuan Williams and drafted Mekhi Blackmon in the third round.

At safety, Harrison Smith returns after taking a pay cut. He's a six-time Pro Bowl selection, but is 34. Camryn Bynum played every defensive snap in his second season. But he will face a challenge from Lewis Cine, a 2022 first-round pick coming back after suffering a serious early-season leg injury.

**RATING: 6**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Vikings return all three specialists for just the second time since the start of the 2017 season. Kicker Greg Joseph won a game with a team-record 61-yard field goal and had a 56 yarder. But he also at one point missed five straight 50-yarders. And he missed six extra points during the season. Rookie punter Ryan Wright averaged 47.4 yards gross and 42.5 net as an undrafted rookie. Long snapper Andrew DePaola had a banner season, being named first-team All-Pro and to the Pro Bowl.

Nwangwu is one of the NFL's top kickoff returners, having averaged 26.3 yards in 2022 and bringing one back for a touchdown. On punt returns, the Vikings didn't get a lot out of wide receiver Jalen Reagor, who averaged 6.4 yards.

**RATING: 7.5**

## INTANGIBLES

The schedule is in line to be much tougher for the Vikings in 2023 after their first-place division finish. Like all NFC teams, they will play nine games on the road and eight at home. They will face each of the four teams that made championship games in the AFC and NFC last season in Super Bowl champion Kansas City, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Cincinnati.

**RATING: Minus-1**

— Chris Tomasson

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

**1** Can the Vikings continue their trend of winning close games under head coach Kevin O'Connell? In 2022, they went 11-0 in games decided by one possession. That was an NFL record for most such games won in a season as well as most won without a loss.

**2** How much more will Justin Jefferson rewrite the record book? He holds the NFL record for receiving yards in a player's first three seasons with 4,825 and in 2022 broke Randy Moss' seasonal team record with 1,809 yards. Now he wants 2,000 in a season.

**3** Can the defense at least be average? The Vikings in 2020 were No. 27 in the NFL in total defense, No. 30 in 2021 and No. 31 in 2022. They hope that Brian Flores can turn things around as the new defensive coordinator.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 13-5**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | GREEN BAY | 23-7 |
| Sept. 19 | at Philadelphia | 7-24 |
| Sept. 25 | DETROIT | 28-24 |
| Oct. 2 | at New Orleans | 28-25 |
| Oct. 9 | CHICAGO | 29-22 |
| Oct. 16 | at Miami | 24-16 |
| Oct. 30 | ARIZONA | 34-26 |
| Nov. 6 | at Washington | 20-17 |
| Nov. 13 | at Buffalo (OT) | 33-30 |
| Nov. 20 | DALLAS | 3-40 |
| Nov. 24 | NEW ENGLAND | 33-26 |
| Dec. 4 | N.Y. JETS | 27-22 |
| Dec. 11 | at Detroit | 23-34 |
| Dec. 17 | INDIANAPOLIS (OT) | 39-36 |
| Dec. 24 | N.Y. GIANTS | 27-24 |
| Jan. 1 | at Green Bay | 17-41 |
| Jan. 8 | at Chicago | 29-13 |
| Jan. 15 | N.Y. GIANTS | 24-31 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Central**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | at Seattle | TBD |
| Aug. 17-21 | TENNESSEE | TBD |
| Aug. 24-27 | ARIZONA | TBD |
| Sept. 10 | TAMPA BAY | 12:00 |
| Sept. 14 | at Philadelphia (Thu) | 7:15 |
| Sept. 24 | L.A. CHARGERS | 12:00 |
| Oct. 1 | at Carolina | 12:00 |
| Oct. 8 | KANSAS CITY | 3:25 |
| Oct. 15 | at Chicago | 12:00 |
| Oct. 23 | SAN FRANCISCO (Mon) | 7:15 |
| Oct. 29 | at Green Bay | 12:00 |
| Nov. 5 | at Atlanta | 12:00 |
| Nov. 12 | NEW ORLEANS | 12:00 |
| Nov. 19 | at Denver | 7:20 |
| Nov. 27 | CHICAGO (Mon) | 7:15 |
| | BYE | |
| Dec. 10 | at Las Vegas | 3:05 |
| Dec. 16/17 | at Cincinnati | TBD |
| Dec. 24 | DETROIT | 12:00 |
| Dec. 31 | GREEN BAY | 7:20 |
| TBD | at Detroit | TBD |

# Quarterback Attrition Hits in Full Force

Where have all the quarterbacks gone? Over the last three years, Drew Brees retired from the Saints, the Falcons traded Matt Ryan and Tom Brady retired from the Bucs. Going into the 2023 season, New Orleans' Derek Carr, who has never won a playoff game, is the best one in the NFC South. Wow.

## ATLANTA FALCONS

Fourteen years of Matt Ryan followed by one year of Marcus Mariota now leads to Desmond Ridder as Arthur Smith's third quarterback in three seasons. Ridder, a third-round pick from Cincinnati in 2022, started the final four games of his rookie season, losing the first two to the Saints and Ravens, but finished with the arrow pointing up after victories over the Cardinals and Bucs. He played his best against the Bucs by passing for 224 yards and his only two touchdowns. Smith has put together back-to-back 7-10 seasons as he has managed to stay competitive while reshaping the roster. He will buy himself more time if Ridder develops into a productive quarterback. The Falcons have firepower with tight end Kyle Pitts, wide receiver Drake London and first-round pick running back Bijan Robinson, an impact player who will take a lot of pressure off Ridder.

## CAROLINA PANTHERS

Give the Panthers credit for going all out trying to fix a big problem. They gave up valuable picks and No. 1 receiver DJ Moore to move from the ninth spot to the top spot in the draft to take Alabama quarterback Bryce Young. He checks off every box you want in a franchise player except one: He measured only 5-foot-10, 204 at the Combine. He's a winner, leader, can run it and throw it and has great instincts, but will he be durable when he gets crushed by pass rushers? The Panthers finished in a three-way tie for second place at 7-10, only a game out of first, are a brand new team with new head coach Frank Reich, a new potential franchise QB and no Christian McCaffrey, traded to the 49ers last season.

## NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Derek Carr, who signed as a free agent, has plenty left in the tank. The issue is whether he is running on premium or regular. Carr was dumped by Josh McDaniels after they were together only one season in Las Vegas. In Carr's nine years with the Raiders, he was brought down by a bad defense and a dysfunctional organization. The Saints have struggled in their two years after Drew Brees — did you think they were going to win with Andy Dalton, Jameis Winston or Trevor Siemian? Carr has versatile running back Alvin Kamara, second-year receiver Chris Olave and will benefit if wideout Michael Thomas can stay healthy after injuries limited him to just 56 catches the last three years after he had 470 in his first four seasons.

## TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

For sure, they got their money's worth out of Tom Brady. He went a big step further than immediately ending the Bucs' 12-year playoff drought when he arrived in 2020. He won the Super Bowl. In 2021, he won a wild-card game and nearly finished off a huge comeback against the Rams in the second round. He struggled last season after retiring for 40 days in the offseason. He went through a divorce, at times looked like he wanted to be anywhere but a football field and played poorly in a playoff loss to Dallas. He retired again. This time for good, it appears. Second-year head coach Todd Bowles will try to win a weak division with Baker Mayfield. Even with wide receivers Mike Evans and Chris Godwin still around, the Bucs are likely headed back to the misery of the pre-Brady days. Well, it was fun while it lasted.

## STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

| | Overall | Div. | 8 Non Div. | 3 Non Div. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tampa Bay | .521 | .412 | .500 | .800 |
| Carolina | .491 | .431 | .500 | .588 |
| New Orleans | .465 | .431 | .500 | .441 |
| Atlanta | .455 | .431 | .500 | .382 |

8 Non-Div. are games vs. two common divisions;
3 Non-Div. are games vs. teams with same place in standings.

## 5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

**1. Did the Falcons make the right move taking Texas running back Bijan Robinson at No. 8 in the first round?**

Remember, head coach Arthur Smith came from the Titans, where Derrick Henry was the focus of his offense. The Falcons went against the trend of runners not only being passed over in the first round, but high in the first round.

**2. Can Derek Carr become the new Drew Brees in New Orleans?**

Brees had a mediocre career in the AFC West before winning a Super Bowl and putting together a Hall of Fame run with the Saints. Perhaps reuniting in a better organization with Dennis Allen, his former head coach with the Raiders, will finally get Carr to the next gear.

**3. Will Baker Mayfield finally live up to his potential with his fourth team?**

Mayfield was not quite a bust in Cleveland, but the 2018 overall No. 1 pick was dumped by the Browns after four seasons when they traded for Deshaun Watson. He split the 2022 season between the Panthers and Rams, had initial success with Sean McVay in L.A. and now tries to resurrect his career in the post-Tom Brady era in Tampa. Good luck.

**4. Will Bryce Young have an immediate impact in Carolina?**

The Panthers have surrounded him with a lot of offensive knowledge: Head coach Frank Reich (former NFL QB), offensive coordinator Thomas Brown, (three years working for Sean McVay with the Rams) quarterbacks coach Josh McCown (former NFL QB) and backup Andy Dalton.

**5. What's the must-see matchup?**

Texans at Panthers. Bryce Young, the first pick in the draft, vs. C.J. Stroud, the second pick, and his former Alabama teammate defensive end Will Anderson Jr., who was the third pick.

— Gary Myers

# ATLANTA FALCONS

## Falcons Appear Ready to Fly

After slogging their way through through two 7-10 seasons and moving on from quarterback Matt Ryan, the Falcons' new regime escaped from salary-cap hell and now find themselves in position to make a full charge toward respectability and possibly the playoffs with this rebuilding project. The Falcons spent nearly $180 million in guaranteed money — $88.8 million on defense — on 17 players instead of spending that money plus at least another $75 million to lure quarterback Lamar Jackson from the Ravens.

The Falcons elected to build a team around second-year quarterback Desmond Ridder, who took over late last season. The Falcons plan to surround Ridder with offensive weapons and play stouter defense as they made a change at the defensive coordinator position. The Falcons are looking to snap their streak of five consecutive losing seasons. Also, they have not been over .500 since the end of the 2017 season. While they have played teams tough and were in a slew of one-score games, the Falcons didn't have much firepower to score enough points or a defense that could stop teams. The Falcons elected to go with a ball-control offense that drained the clock in order to keep its low-ranking defense off the field. With the spending in free agency, the Falcons are hoping that an improved defensive front can stop the run and provide better coverage in the secondary that will allow the pass rush to shine. The Falcons have laid their foundation over the past two seasons; now it's time to put some winning football together.

**Grady Jarrett**

Photo by Rich von Biberstein/Icon Sportswire via AP Images

**T2**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 7-10

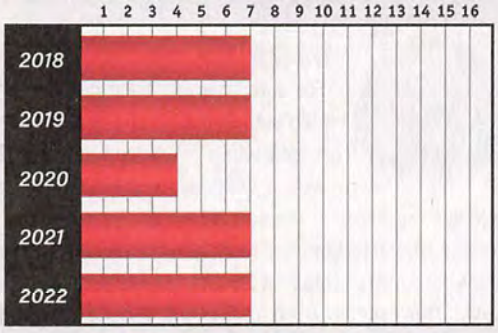
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 2-4

**STADIUM:** Mercedes-Benz Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 72,000 (expandable to 75,000)

**SURFACE:** FieldTurf

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

4400 FALCON PARKWAY
FLOWERY BRANCH, GA 30542
(770) 965-3115
WWW.ATLANTAFALCONS.COM

**TRAINING CAMP:** IBM Performance Field; Flowery Branch, GA
**HEAD COACH:** Arthur Smith
- 3rd season as Falcons/NFL head coach
- 14-20 overall

**OWNER & CHAIRMAN:** Arthur M. Blank
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Rich McKay
**PRESIDENT:** Greg Beadles
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Terry Fontenot
**VP PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Kyle Smith
**SR. PERSONNEL EXECUTIVES:** Phil Emery, Ryan Pace, Ruston Webster
**DIR. COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Anthony Robinson

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dave Ragone | Offensive coordinator | 12 | 3 |
| Dwayne Ledford | Offensive line | 3 | 3 |
| Shawn Flaherty | Assistant line | 5 | 2 |
| Mateo Kambui | Diversity Fellow/OL | 1 | 1 |
| Michael Pitre | Running backs | 4 | 2 |
| T.J. Yates | Receivers | 3 | 3 |
| Nick Perry | Asst. receivers | 3 | 3 |
| Justin Peelle | Tight ends | 11 | 3 |
| Patrick Kramer | Offensive assistant | 3 | 3 |
| Steven King | Offensive assistant | 2 | 2 |
| Jerry Gray | Asst. head coach/defense | 27 | 1 |
| Ryan Nielsen | Defensive coordinator | 7 | 1 |
| Dave Huxtable | Sr. defensive assistant | 1 | 1 |
| Lanier Goethie | Def. front specialist | 3 | 3 |
| Frank Bush | Linebackers | 32 | 3 |
| Steve Jackson | Defensive backs | 20 | 3 |
| Matt Pees | Defensive assistant | 5 | 3 |
| Mario Jeberaeel | Special projects/defense | 3 | 3 |
| Marquice Williams | Special teams coord. | 8 | 3 |
| Steve Hoffman | Senior assistant | 31 | 3 |
| Matt Baker | Special teams asst. | 1 | 1 |
| Dr. Thomas Stallworth | Head S&C | 6 | 3 |
| Roderick Moore Jr. | Assistant S&C | 3 | 3 |
| Bobby Thomas | Assistant S&C | 3 | 3 |

## FALCONS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/8 | Drake London | WR | Starter |
| 2021 | 1/4 | Kyle Pitts | TE | Starter |
| 2020 | 1/16 | A.J. Terrell | CB | Starter |
| 2019 | 1/14 | Chris Lindstrom | G | Starter |
| 2018 | 1/26 | Calvin Ridley | WR | Jaguars |

## COACHING

Head coach Arthur Smith did a masterful job of unleashing a rushing attack that finished third in the league. Smith, along with offensive line coach Dwayne Ledford, put together a group that powered the ball at teams week after week because they didn't have much of a passing attack with Marcus Mariota and then late in the season with Ridder. They used a committee approach that ended up with Tyler Allgeier rushing for more than 1,000 yards in his rookie season. Despite some shrewd coaching and strong play on special teams, the Falcons managed to go 5-8 in one-score games. Ryan Nielsen, who was the Saints co-defensive coordinator, was hired to replace Dean Pees, who retired. He was hired in part to ramp up a pass rush that totaled only 21 sacks (31st in the league).

**RATING: 7.5**

## QUARTERBACKS

A year after pursuing Deshaun Watson, the Falcons didn't get in the Jackson derby as he eventually re-signed with the Ravens. After they'd seen enough of the Mariota experiences, the Falcons decided that Ridder warranted some starts. Ridder, who went 44-6 as a collegian at Cincinnati, did enough in his four-game audition for them to move forward with his development. Ridder dropped his first two games in road starts at New Orleans and Baltimore, but went on to post wins over the Cardinals and Buccaneers. Ridder took better care of the ball, but the passing attack was without tight end Kyle Pitts.

**RATING: 6.5**

## RUNNING BACKS

Bijan Robinson is considered a generational talent and was considered too good for the Falcons to pass up with the eighth overall pick in the draft. The plan is to pair him with Allgeier and provide a thunder and lightning effect in the backfield. The fact that Robinson can also catch the ball out of the backfield adds to the threat. He also lined up in the slot and is a fluid route-runner. Allgeier eased into things. He ended up rushing 210 times for 1,035 yards and three touchdowns. He broke the 43-year-old rookie mark set by William Andrews, who rushed for 1,023 yards in 1979. The Falcons rushed for 159.9 yards per game, which ranked third in the NFL. Allgeier took over the load from Cordarrelle Patterson. Fullback Keith Smith did his part with some strong lead blocking.

**RATING: 7.5**

## RECEIVERS

The Falcons' version of the Twin Towers

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

Entering 2023, there are many unknowns surrounding the Falcons. Stability at quarterback is the most glaring question mark. However, the offense possesses several big-play weapons just waiting to burst. It was a remarkable rookie wide receiver class thanks to contributions such as **Drake London**. The tall, athletic target hauled in 72 catches for 866 yards, while dealing with an ankle injury during the latter part of the year. He looks ready to take the next step. ... We know how much TE **Kyle Pitts** is capable of producing, but he needs to show he can stay healthy. After a fantastic first-year campaign that saw him exceed the 1,000-yard barrier, Pitts missed seven games last season, while gaining just 356 yards in the 10 games he did play. The Falcons anticipate a bounce-back year and Pitts has All-Pro level talent. ... It was an adjustment season for ILB **Troy Anderson**, who made the jump from Montana State to the NFL. Plus, he moved to middle linebacker after being utilized in a pass-rush capacity in college. By the end of the season, you could see Anderson start to put it all together. He needs to improve his open-field tackling and take advantage of another year in a pro strength and conditioning program, which will do him well. Don't be surprised to see Anderson trotting onto the field with the starting unit come opening week.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

DESMOND RIDDER

The Falcons' general manager and Smith have been quarterback snobs in attempting to replace Matt Ryan, the greatest quarterback in franchise history. (The Steve Bartkowski and Michael Vick crowds may differ). After chasing Watson and dabbling in three drafts, they appear ready to hitch their wagon to Ridder, who had a prolific career at Cincinnati after being lightly recruited out of Louisville. Ridder has the charisma and toughness to lead a team, but now can he produce at a high level in the passing game? He's surrounded by weapons and set up to succeed. Ridder took the Bearcats to the College Football Playoffs and now will be asked to take the Falcons to the NFL playoffs.

# FALCONS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 83 | *Bernhardt, Jared | 6-1 | 195 | 2 | Ferris State | 2/0/1/3 | CFA 22 | CFA ATL 22 | Made strides while trying to make the transition from lacrosse and quarterback. |
| 88 | Darby, Frank | 6-1 | 200 | 3 | Arizona State | 5/0/0/3 | FA 22 | D6 ATL 21 | Has good hands and has flashed speed while playing on special teams. |
| 87 | *FitzPatrick, John (TE) | 6-7 | 250 | 2 | Georgia | 0/0/0/0 | D6 22 | D6 ATL 22 | Blocking prospect who spent most of rookie season on IR with broken feet. |
| 19 | Hart, Penny | 5-8 | 180 | 4 | Georgia State | 9/0/0/8 | FA 23 | CFA IND 19 | Crafty route-runner who can make the tough catch. Mostly a slot. |
| 46 | Hesse, Parker (TE) | 6-3 | 261 | 3 | Iowa | 17/7 | FA 21 | CFA TENN 19 | Dependable blocker who's made the conversion from being a defensive end in college. |
| 12 | Hodge, KhaDarel | 5-11 | 183 | 6 | Prairie View | 17/1 | UFA,DET 22 | CFA LAR 18 | Can play all of the positions; has good hands and contributes on special teams. |
| **18** | **Hollins, Mack** | **6-4** | **221** | **7** | **North Carolina** | **17/16** | **UFA,LV 23** | **D4 PHA 17** | **Coming of a breakthrough season and could fight for a starting position.** |
| **5** | **London, Drake** | **6-4** | **213** | **2** | **Southern Cal** | **17/15** | **D1 22** | **D1 ATL 22** | **Caught the ball well in traffic, but has to work on his ball security.** |
| 16 | Miller, Scott | 5-9 | 174 | 5 | Bowling Green | 15/1/0/2 | UFA,TB 23 | D6 TB 19 | Signed as a free agent and is expected to use his speed and become a deep threat. |
| **8** | ***Pitts, Kyle (TE)** | **6-6** | **246** | **3** | **Florida** | **10/10/0/1** | **D1 21** | **D1 ATL 21** | **Will look to rebound after struggling with undisclosed injuries last season.** |
| 81 | Smith, Jonnu (TE) | 6-3 | 248 | 7 | Florida International | 14/8/0/3 | T,NE 23 | D3 TENN 17 | Enjoyed success with the Titans, but under-performed with the Patriots. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **65** | **Bergeron, Matthew (LG)** | **6-5** | **323** | **R** | **Syracuse** | **0/0** | **D2 23** | **D2 ATL 23** | **Played tackle in college, but has the power and lateral quickness to convert to guard.** |
| **67** | **Dalman, Drew (C)** | **6-3** | **300** | **3** | **Stanford** | **17/17** | **D4 21** | **D4 ATL 21** | **Showed great agility at climbing to the second level while taking over at center.** |
| 71 | *Greenidge, Ethan (T) | 6-4 | 335 | 5 | Villanova | 0/0/0/0 | UFA,NORL 23 | CFA NORL 19 | An athletic and powerful blocker with excellent footwork. |
| 56 | Gwyn, Jovaughn (C) | 6-2 | 301 | R | South Carolina | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 ATL 23 | He was a bit undersized, but is a feisty battler who started 47 games in the SEC. |
| 62 | Harrison, Jonotthan (C) | 6-4 | 308 | 7 | Florida | 0/0/2/1 | FA 23 | CFA IND 14 | A strong blocker in the run game who provides interior depth. |
| 61 | Hennessy, Matt (C) | 6-3 | 307 | 4 | Temple | 11/3/0/0 | D3 20 | D3 ATL 20 | Proved a valuable interior backup who has the ability to anchor and climb. |
| 74 | Ifedi, Germain (T) | 6-5 | 325 | 8 | Texas A&M | 17/0 | UFA,CHI 22 | D1 SEA 16 | Former first-round pick who has found a role as backup swing tackle. |
| **63** | **Lindstrom, Chris (RG)** | **6-3** | **307** | **5** | **Boston College** | **17/17** | **D1 19** | **D1 ATL 19** | **Has firmly established himself as one of the top right guards in the league.** |
| **70** | **Matthews, Jake (LT)** | **6-5** | **309** | **10** | **Texas A&M** | **17/17** | **D1 14** | **D1 ATL 14** | **Considered one of the best left tackles in the NFC and team leader.** |
| 77 | *Mayfield, Jalen (T/G) | 6-5 | 320 | 3 | Michigan | 0/0/0/0 | D3 21 | D3 ATL 21 | Started as a rookie, but did not play last season with a back ailment. |
| **76** | **McGary, Kaleb (RT)** | **6-6** | **306** | **5** | **Washington** | **17/17** | **D1 19** | **D1 ATL 19** | **Came on as a power run-blocker, but is still a liability in pass protection.** |
| 66 | *Miles, Joshua (T) | 6-5 | 325 | 5 | Morgan State | 0/0/0/0 | UFA,ARIZ 23 | D7 ARIZ 19 | Has played mostly tackle, but will get a chance to convert to guard. |
| 64 | Neuzil, Ryan (G) | 6-3 | 301 | 2 | Appalachian State | 9/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA ATL 21 | A rugged blocker with a mean streak who learned how to play backup center. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | Allgeier, Tyler | 5-11 | 220 | 2 | Birgham Young | 16/7/0/1 | D5 22 | D5 ATL 22 | A powerful runner who hits the hole with authority and is hard to bring down. |
| 42 | *Huntley, Caleb | 5-10 | 229 | 2 | Ball State | 12/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA ATL 21 | A hard-charger who will try to make it back from a ruptured Achilles. |
| 84 | Patterson, Cordarrelle (RS) | 6-2 | 220 | 11 | Tennessee | 13/11/0/0 | UFA, CHI 21 | D1 MINN 13 | A bit unorthodox, but still has the speed and vision to make long runs. |
| **7** | **Robinson, Bijan** | **5-11** | **215** | **R** | **Texas** | **0/0** | **D1 23** | **D1 ATL 23** | **Highly touted running back who's shifty; can run with power and catch.** |
| **40** | **Smith, Keith (FB)** | **6-0** | **240** | **9** | **San Jose State** | **17/6** | **FA 19** | **CFA DALL 14** | **One of the league's top lead blockers and top special teamers.** |
| 26 | Williams, Avery | 5-9 | 195 | 3 | Boise State | 17/3/0/0 | D5 21 | D5 ATL 21 | Made the conversion from running back and led the league in punt return average. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | Franks, Feleipe | 6-6 | 234 | 3 | Arkansas | 11/1/1/5 | CFA 21 | CFA ATL 21 | Played in some packages when not spending time with the tight ends. |
| 4 | Heinicke, Taylor | 6-1 | 210 | 7 | Old Dominion | 9/9/8/0 | UFA,WSH 23 | CFA MINN 15 | A battler; a quality backup with a solid arm and some playoff experience. |
| **9** | **Ridder, Desmond** | **6-3** | **207** | **2** | **Cincinnati** | **4/4/13/0** | **D3 22** | **D3 ATL 22** | **Showed some promise in a late-season audition, while passing attack must improve.** |
| 6 | Woodside, Logan (QB) | 6-2 | 201 | 4 | Toledo | 1/0/5/0 | FA 22 | D7 CIN 18 | Crafty signal-caller who could get through an emergency situation. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **93** | **Campbell, Calais (E)** | **6-8** | **282** | **16** | **Miami** | **14/14/0/3** | **FA 23** | **D2 ARIZ 08** | **The big and powerful veteran with 99 career sacks will add to the anemic pass rush.** |
| 94 | Dalton, Jalen (T) | 6-6 | 300 | 4 | North Carolina | 7/0/0/3 | FA 22 | CFA CHI 19 | A battler who has to be better at getting penetration. |
| 99 | *Gaziano, Joe (E) | 6-4 | 275 | 3 | Northwestern | 5/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA LAC 20 | Comes with the reputation for being a high-energy player. |
| 91 | Goldman, Eddie (NT) | 6-3 | 332 | 7 | Florida State | 14/10/0/3 | FA 22 | D2 CHI 15 | Was reinstated from the reserve/retired list and will provide depth at nose tackle. |
| 95 | *Graham, Ta'Quon (E) | 6-4 | 294 | 3 | Texas | 11/9/0/0 | D5 21 | D5 ATL 21 | Was coming into his own before getting sidelined with a knee injury. |
| 96 | Harrison, Zach (E) | 6-6 | 272 | R | Ohio State | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 ATL 23 | Has a long arm reach and should be able to set the edge in the run game. |
| 98 | Horne, Timmy (T) | 6-4 | 323 | 2 | Kansas State | 17/5 | CFA 22 | CFA ATL 22 | A massive tackle who flashed power and agility in the middle last season. |
| **97** | **Jarrett, Grady (E)** | **6-0** | **305** | **9** | **Clemson** | **17/17** | **D5 15** | **D5 ATL 15** | **Has clearly established himself as one of the top power/speed tackles in the game.** |
| **90** | **Onyemata, David (NT)** | **6-3** | **300** | **8** | **Manitoba, Canada** | **17/17** | **UFA,NORL 23** | **D4 NORL 16** | **A powerful presence who was added to help stop the run.** |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **44** | **Andersen, Troy (I)** | **6-4** | **235** | **2** | **Montana State** | **17/5** | **D2 22** | **D2 TENN 22** | **Flashed his athletic ability rushing the passer and in coverage last season.** |
| 59 | Anenih, David (I) | 6-2 | 245 | 2 | Houston | 0/0/0/6 | FA 22 | CFA TENN 22 | Moves around well in space and is fluid in coverage. |
| **0** | **Carter, Lorenzo (O)** | **6-5** | **252** | **5** | **Georgia** | **17/17** | **UFA,NYG 22** | **D3 NYG 18** | **Has the power to set the edge and provides some pass rush.** |
| 50 | Davis, Tae (O) | 6-0 | 222 | 5 | Chattanooga | 5/0/0/0 | UFA,CLV 23 | CFA NYG 18 | Has played mostly on special teams because of his run-and-strike ability. |
| **48** | ***Dupree, Bud (O)** | **6-4** | **269** | **8** | **Kentucky** | **11/11/0/4** | **FA 23** | **D1 PITT 15** | **Has battled injuries over the past two seasons, but once was an elite power rusher.** |
| 47 | Ebiketie, Arnold (O) | 6-3 | 256 | 2 | Penn State | 16/1/0/1 | D2 22 | D2 ATL 22 | Showed flashes of being an exciting pass rusher. Must continue to develop his moves. |
| **55** | **Elliss, Kaden (I)** | **6-2** | **238** | **5** | **Idaho** | **17/11** | **UFA,NORL 23** | **D7 NORL 19** | **Versatile speed-to-power player who can line up in a variety of spots.** |
| 51 | Malone, DeAngelo (O) | 6-4 | 240 | 2 | Western Kentucky | 15/0/0/2 | D3 22 | D3 ATL 22 | Flashed his strength and speed on special teams. |
| 92 | Ogundeji, Adetokunbo (O) | 6-4 | 268 | 3 | Notre Dame | 16/16/0/1 | D5 21 | D5 ATL 21 | Played a lot last two seasons and did a good job of setting the edge. |
| 3 | Walker, Mykal (I) | 6-3 | 230 | 4 | Fresno State | 16/12/0/1 | D4 20 | D4 ATL 20 | Opened season as a starter and showed play-making ability with power. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 36 | Abernathy, Micah (S) | 6-0 | 196 | 1 | Tennessee | 2/0/0/2 | FA 22 | CFA MINN 19 | A rangy hitter who can cover some ground. |
| 20 | Alford, Dee (CB) | 5-11 | 175 | 2 | Tusculum | 16/0/0/1 | FA 22 | FA ATL 22 | Former CFL star who has some ball-hawking ability. Strong tackler. |
| 22 | Armstrong, Cornell (CB) | 5-11 | 185 | 5 | Southern Mississippi | 10/4/0/1 | FA 22 | D6 MIA 18 | Ended the season as starter at right corner. Strong in zone; comes up in run support. |
| **30** | **Bates III, Jessie (S)** | **6-1** | **200** | **6** | **Wake Forest** | **16/16** | **UFA,CIN 23** | **D2 CIN 18** | **Signed in free agency to help cut down the big plays and add some bite to the unit.** |
| **27** | **Grant, Richie (S)** | **6-0** | **200** | **3** | **Central Florida** | **17/17** | **D2 21** | **D2 ATL 21** | **Wonderful ball skills, rangy and striking ability.** |
| 34 | Hall, Darren (CB) | 6-0 | 190 | 3 | San Diego State | 17/9 | D4 21 | D4 ATL 21 | Struggled in coverage and ended up getting benched. He's at Last Chance U. |
| 32 | Hawkins, Jaylinn (S) | 6-1 | 208 | 4 | California | 16/16/0/1 | D4 20 | D4 ATL 20 | The versatile hitter could find a role as the "big nickel" in the slot. |
| 37 | Hellams, DeMarcco (S) | 6-1 | 213 | R | Alabama | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 ATL 23 | Productive tackler in college who could contribute on special teams. |
| 21 | Hughes, Mike (CB/RS) | 5-10 | 189 | 6 | Central Florida | 16/6/0/1 | UFA,DET 23 | D1 MINN 18 | Has lost his job in each of the last three years. Will get a shot at nickel back. |
| **1** | **Okudah, Jeff (CB)** | **6-1** | **202** | **4** | **Ohio State** | **15/15/0/2** | **T,DET 23** | **D1 DET 20** | **Athletic in run support and press coverage. Looking to find some consistency.** |
| 34 | Phillips III, Clark (CB) | 5-10 | 183 | R | Utah | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 ATL 23 | Makes up for his size with toughness. Has great short-area quickness. |
| **24** | **Terrell, A.J. (CB)** | **6-1** | **195** | **4** | **Clemson** | **14/14/0/3** | **D1 20** | **D1 ATL 20** | **Excellent coverage skills gives new DC the option to match on top receivers.** |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Koo, Younghoe (K) | 5-9 | 185 | 4 | Georgia Southern | 17/0 | FA 19 | CFA LAC 17 | Mr. Automatic who also has a nice set of trick onsides kicks. |
| 49 | McCullough, Liam (LS) | 6-2 | 247 | 2 | Ohio State | 17/0 | FA 22 | CFA LV 20 | Agile long snapper who can get down the field and cover. |
| 13 | Pinion, Bradley (P) | 6-5 | 229 | 9 | Clemson | 17/0 | FA 22 | D5 SF 15 | Has a strong leg and is adept at directional punting. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Josh Ali (1, Kentucky), Keilahn Harris (Oklahoma Baptist), Ra'Shaun Henry (1, Virginia), Xavier Malone (Henderson State), Justin Marshall (Buffalo); TEs Tucker Fisk (1, Stanford), John Raine (1, Northwestern); T Tyler Vrabel (1, Boston College); Gs Kyle Hinton (1, Washburn), Justin Shaffer (1, Georgia); RBs BJ. Baylor (1, Kentucky), Carlos Washington (Southeastern Louisiana); FB Clint Ratkovich (1, Northern Illinois); DL Ikenna Enechukwa (Rice); LBs Dorian Etheridge (2, Louisville), Mike Jones Jr. (Louisiana State), Nathan Landman (1, Colorado); CBs Javelin Guidry (3, Utah), Matt Hankins (1, Iowa), Dylan Mabin (1, Fordham), Jamal Peters (1, Mississippi State)

Cordarrelle Patterson
Photo by AP Photo/Jacob Kupferman

never materialized last season and tight end Kyle Pitts was slowed by injury. He was slated to be paired with wide receiver Drake London in the passing game. Pitts, who had a spectacular rookie season, eventually ended the season on injured reserve. London, who was the first receiver taken in the draft, had a solid first season. With the opposition, focusing on Pitts, London caught 18 passes over the first four games, while Pitts caught 10. London hit a lull, but then finished strong over the final five games, including the final four with Ridder at the controls. London was targeted 36 times and caught 25 passes from Ridder for 233 yards. London finished with 72 catches for 866 yards and four touchdowns.

**RATING: 7**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Right guard Chris Lindstrom and right tackle Kaleb McGary turned into a very good mauling run-blocking duo in the Falcons' outside-zone rushing attack. Lindstrom was selected to the Pro Bowl for the first time and was named second-team All-Pro. Both were rewarded as Lindstrom was made the highest-paid guard in the league. McGary, who didn't have his fifth-year option picked up, signed a respectable three-year, $34.5 million contract and perhaps salvaged his career.

Most of the Falcons' rushing yards came behind Lindstrom and McGary. Left tackle Jake Matthews continued to play at a high level while there was a revolving door at left guard. Rookie Matthew Bergeron was drafted to take over the spot that saw four different starters last season. Matthews started every game for the eighth straight season.

**RATING: 7**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Calais Campbell (99 career sacks) and David Onyemata (23 sacks) were signed in

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

### KEY ADDITION:

**S Jessie Bates III**
Bates is coming over from the Bengals and is the new sheriff in town. He was made the highest-paid safety in the league to help clean up the coverage in the secondary and take the ball away from the opposing offenses.

### OTHER ADDITIONS:

DE Abdullah Anderson, DL Calais Campbell, LB Tae Davis, LB Bud Dupree, LB Kaden Elliss, DE Joe Gaziano, NT Eddie Goldman, T Ethan Greenidge, WR Penny Hart, QB Taylor Heinicke, WR Mack Hollins, CB Mike Hughes, T Joshua Miles, WR Scotty Miller, CB Jeff Okudah, DT David Onyemata, TE Jonnu Smith

### KEY LOSS:

**LB Rashaan Evans (17/17)***
Evans was the leading tackler and provided the unit with a degree of physicality. If Andersen is not ready to take over, the defense could have a big hole in the middle.

### OTHER LOSSES:

LB Quinton Bell (4/0), LS Beau Brinkley (0/0), WR Damiere Byrd (14/4), DT Matt Dickerson (7/3), T Chuma Edoga (2/1), CB Rashad Fenton (2/1), TE Anthony Firkser (11/1), CB Mike Ford (17/2), G Colby Gossett (17/4), S Erik Harris (14/1), CB Casey Hayward Jr. (6/6), DT Jaleel Johnson (6/0), LB Nick Kwiatkoski (12/0), **QB Marcus Mariota (13/13)**, S Jovante Moffatt (2/0), CB Isaiah Oliver (12/5), TE MyCole Pruitt (13/4), DT Vincent Taylor (0/0), **T Elijah Wilkinson (9/9), WR Olamide Zaccheaus (17/13)**
**Total games played/started lost: 195/84**

### STARTERS RETURNING

18: 8 offense, 10 defense, kicker, punter
*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS

DRAKE LONDON

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Marcus Mariota | 300 | 184 | 2219 | 15 | 9 |
| Desmond Ridder | 115 | 73 | 708 | 2 | 0 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tyler Allgeier | 210 | 1035 | 4.9 | 3 |
| Cordarrelle Patterson | 144 | 695 | 4.8 | 8 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Drake London | 72 | 866 | 12.0 | 4 |
| Olamide Zaccheaus | 40 | 533 | 13.3 | 3 |
| Kyle Pitts | 28 | 356 | 12.7 | 2 |
| Damiere Byrd | 13 | 268 | 20.6 | 2 |

**Kicking:** Koo 33/35 XPs, 32/37 FGs, 129 points
**Tackles:** Evans 159, Grant 122, Walker 107
**Sacks:** Jarrett 6, Carter 4, Abiketie 2.5
**INTs:** Walker 2, Hawkins 2, Grant 2

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 318.6 | 24 |
| Passing Offense | 158.8 | 31 |
| Rushing Offense | 159.9 | 3 |
| Points | 21.5 | 15 |
| Sacked | 37 | 12 |
| 3rd Down % | 41.8 | 10 |

| Defense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Defense | 362.1 | 27 |
| Passing Defense | 231.9 | 25 |
| Rushing Defense | 130.2 | 23 |
| Points Allowed | 22.7 | 23 |
| INTs | 10 | T-24 |
| Sacks | 21 | 31 |
| Turnover Diff. | -4 | T-24 |

free agency to provide Grady Jarrett some help up front. Also, the line received a boost when nose tackle Eddie Goldman came out of retirement. Campbell, who was a second-round pick (50th) by the Cardinals in 2008, played the past three seasons with the Ravens. In 2022, Campbell played 550 defensive snaps (62 percent) for the Ravens and 123 special-teams (35 percent) snaps. He had 36 tackles, 5.5 sacks, 14 quarterback hits and four tackles for losses. Ta'Quon Graham, who was having a strong campaign, will try to make it back from knee surgery. Campbell will turn 37 on Sept. 1 and plans to play 60 percent of the defensive snaps.

**RATING: 7.5**

## LINEBACKERS

For the second straight year, the Falcons will not return their leading tackler. After 2021, Foye Oluokun signed with the Jaguars in free agency. Rashaan Evans, who was signed to replace him, led the team with 159 tackles and was not re-signed in free agency, Inside, the Falcons appear set to hand things over to Troy Andersen and Mykal Walker, who opened last season as a starter. Kaden Elliss, who played inside for the Saints last season, was signed in free agency. The Falcons re-signed Lorenzo Carter and signed veteran Bud Dupree (46.5 career sacks) in free agency.

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. If Ridder stumbles early, don't expect Arthur Smith to have a quick hook. If he's still struggling down the stretch and the Falcons are in the playoff race, he'll have the option of turning to Heinicke.

2. The Falcons offensive line played well in the run-game, but remains suspect in the pass protection department. If Ridder is going to thrive, the line needs to get stabilized at left guard and provide McGary some help against elite rushers.

3. How much will the Falcons be able to get out of rookie running back Bijan Robinson? With Allgeier and Patterson on hand, he will not have to carry a full load. Smith has big plans for the rookie, who he called a "home run hitter."

The Falcons are also hoping outside linebackers Arnold Ebiketie and DeAngelo Malone are ready to make a big leap in their second seasons. Ebiketie showed some explosion last season, but a forearm injury slowed him down. Malone flourished on special teams and is a big-hitter.

**RATING: 7**

## SECONDARY

The Falcons went after Jessie Bates III in free agency and showered him with cash. They are hoping that he can help to unify the secondary and take care of any big plays. Bates is widely considered one of the top safeties in the league. Opponents passed for 231.9 yards per game, which ranked 25th in the NFL. The opposition averaged 7.29 yards per pass play, which ranked 29th, and converted on 45.9 percent of its third downs, which ranked 31st in the league.

So, there's plenty of room for improvement and plenty of things for Bates to clean up. Bates helped the Bengals reach Super Bowl LVI and was named second-team All-Pro after the 2020 season. In addition to Bates, the Falcons traded for cornerback Jeff Okudah, who was the third overall pick in the 2020 draft. They will attempt to resurrect his career.

**RATING: 7**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Falcons arguably have the top two returners in the league in kickoff returner Cordarrelle Patterson and punt returner Avery Williams. Patterson had his ninth kickoff return for a touchdown last season to break a tie with retired NFL players Josh Cribbs and Leon Washington for the most kickoff returns for touchdowns in league history. Williams led the league in punt-return average at 16.2 yards. Kicker Younghoe Koo was clutch, as he made 33 of 35 extra points (94.3 percent) and 32 of 37 field-goal attempts (86.5 percent), including a long of 54 yards. Rookie Liam McCullough took over as the long snapper after veteran Beau Brinkley ruptured his Achilles. Punter Bradley Pinion handled the kickoffs and served as the holder when he wasn't booming punts.

**RATING: 8**

## INTANGIBLES

Smith and his staff have made lemonade out of a roster of lemons for the last two seasons. Now with an influx of talent via free agency and their third draft, the Falcons appear poised to make a legitimate playoff bid in the weak NFC South.

**RATING: Plus-1**

— D. Orlando Ledbetter

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 7-10**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | NEW ORLEANS | 26-27 |
| Sept. 18 | at L.A. Rams | 27-31 |
| Sept. 25 | at Seattle | 27-23 |
| Oct. 2 | CLEVELAND | 23-20 |
| Oct. 9 | at Tampa Bay | 15-21 |
| Oct. 16 | SAN FRANCISCO | 28-14 |
| Oct. 23 | at Cincinnati | 17-35 |
| Oct. 30 | CAROLINA (OT) | 37-34 |
| Nov. 6 | L.A. CHARGERS | 17-20 |
| Nov. 10 | at Carolina | 15-25 |
| Nov. 20 | CHICAGO | 27-24 |
| Nov. 27 | at Washington | 13-19 |
| Dec. 4 | PITTSBURGH | 16-19 |
| Dec. 18 | at New Orleans | 18-21 |
| Dec. 24 | at Baltimore | 9-17 |
| Jan. 1 | ARIZONA | 20-19 |
| Jan. 8 | TAMPA BAY | 30-17 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Eastern**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | at Miami | TBD |
| Aug. 17-21 | CINCINNATI | TBD |
| Aug. 24-27 | PITTSBURGH | TBD |
| Sept. 10 | CAROLINA | 1:00 |
| Sept. 17 | GREEN BAY | 1:00 |
| Sept. 24 | at Detroit | 1:00 |
| Oct. 1 | Jacksonville (London) | 9:30 |
| Oct. 8 | HOUSTON | 1:00 |
| Oct. 15 | WASHINGTON | 1:00 |
| Oct. 22 | at Tampa Bay | 1:00 |
| Oct. 29 | at Tennessee | 1:00 |
| Nov. 5 | MINNESOTA | 1:00 |
| Nov. 12 | at Arizona | 4:05 |
| | BYE | |
| Nov. 26 | NEW ORLEANS | 1:00 |
| Dec. 3 | at N.Y. Jets | 1:00 |
| Dec. 10 | TAMPA BAY | 1:00 |
| Dec. 16/17 | at Carolina | TBD |
| Dec. 24 | INDIANAPOLIS | 1:00 |
| Dec. 31 | at Chicago | 1:00 |
| TBD | at New Orleans | TBD |

# CAROLINA PANTHERS

## Immediate Future Rides with Reich and Young

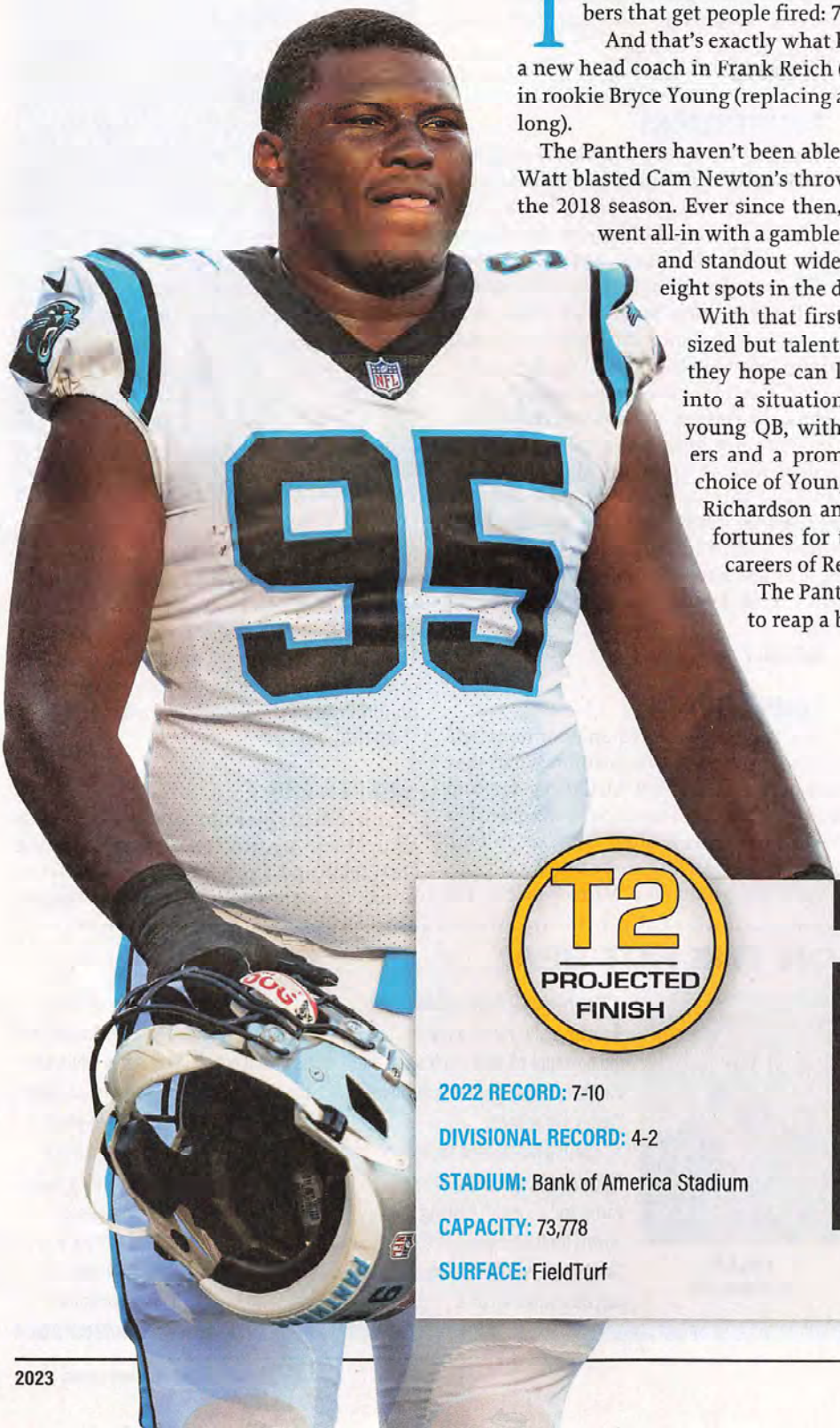
The Panthers' win totals for the past five NFL seasons are the sort of numbers that get people fired: 7, 5, 5, 5 and 7.

And that's exactly what has happened, as the Panthers begin 2023 with a new head coach in Frank Reich (replacing Matt Rhule) and a new quarterback in rookie Bryce Young (replacing a whole lot of QBs who never stuck around too long).

The Panthers haven't been able to solve their quarterback quandary since T.J. Watt blasted Cam Newton's throwing shoulder in Pittsburgh, halfway through the 2018 season. Ever since then, things have gone downhill. So the Panthers went all-in with a gamble in March, trading away four future draft picks and standout wide receiver DJ Moore for the right to move up eight spots in the draft, from No. 9 overall to No. 1.

With that first pick, Carolina chose Young, and the undersized but talented former Alabama quarterback is the player they hope can lead them out of the doldrums. Young walks into a situation the Panthers believe is tailor-made for a young QB, with an offensive line that returns all five starters and a promising, mostly new cast of skill players. The choice of Young over other options like C.J. Stroud, Anthony Richardson and Will Levis will likely define the Panthers' fortunes for the next several years, and also the Carolina careers of Reich and general manager Scott Fitterer.

The Panthers took the big risk. Now they hope it's time to reap a big reward.



**Derrick Brown**
Photo by Margaret Bowles via AP

**T2**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 7-10

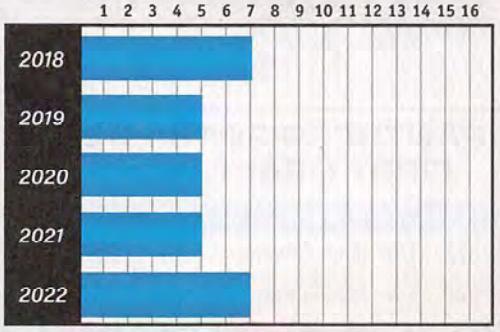
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 4-2

**STADIUM:** Bank of America Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 73,778

**SURFACE:** FieldTurf

**WINS PER YEAR**



## AT A GLANCE

800 SOUTH MINT STREET
CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28202
(704) 358-7000
WWW.PANTHERS.COM

**TRAINING CAMP:** Wofford College; Spartanburg, SC
**HEAD COACH:** Frank Reich
- 1st season with Panthers
- 6th season as NFL head coach
- 41-33-1 overall; 1-2 postseason

**OWNER:** David A. Tepper
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Scott Fitterer
**ASSISTANT GM:** Dan Morgan
**SR. PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE:** Jeff Morrow
**VP FOOTBALL ADMIN.:** Samir Suleiman
**VP PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Patrick Stewart
**DIR. COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Cole Spencer
**DIR. PRO PERSONNEL:** Rob Hanrahan

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Thomas Brown | Offensive coordinator | 4 | 1 |
| Jim Caldwell | Senior assistant | 19 | 1 |
| Josh McCown | Quarterbacks | 1 | 1 |
| Parks Frazier | Pass game coordinator | 6 | 1 |
| James Campen | Offensive line | 20 | 3 |
| Robert Kugler | Assistant line | 3 | 2 |
| Duce Staley | *Running backs | 13 | 1 |
| Shawn Jefferson | Receivers | 19 | 1 |
| John Lilly | Tight ends | 3 | 1 |
| Mike Bercovici | Offensive assistant | 2 | 1 |
| Jamel Mutunga | Offensive assistant | 1 | 1 |
| Tyler Boyles | Off. quality control | 2 | 1 |
| Ejiro Evero | Defensive coordinator | 16 | 1 |
| Dom Capers | Senior assistant | 37 | 1 |
| Todd Wash | Defensive line | 17 | 1 |
| Peter Hansen | Linebackers | 5 | 1 |
| Tem Lukabu | Outside linebackers | 6 | 1 |
| Jonathan Cooley | Defensive backs | 4 | 1 |
| DeAngelo Hall | Asst. defensive backs | 1 | 1 |
| Bert Watts | Safeties | 3 | 1 |
| Bobby Maffei | Defensive assistant | 2 | 2 |
| Mayur Chaudhari | Defensive assistant | 5 | 1 |
| Chris Tabor | Special teams coord. | 16 | 2 |
| Devin Fitzsimmons | Asst. special teams | 9 | ? |
| Jeremy Scott | Head S&C | 4 | 4 |
| Thomas Barbeau | S&C assistant | 4 | 4 |
| Corey Campbell | S&C assistant | 3 | 3 |

* Assistant head coach

## PANTHERS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/6 | Ikem Ekwonu | T | Starter |
| 2021 | 1/8 | Jaycee Horn | CB | Starter |
| 2020 | 1/7 | Derrick Brown | DT | Starter |
| 2019 | 1/16 | Brian Burns | DE | Starter |
| 2018 | 1/24 | DJ Moore | WR | Bears |

## COACHING

Reich emerged as Carolina's top choice due to his organizational skills, quarterback coaching experience and ability to assemble a top-notch coaching staff, which he did. He won the job over 2022 Carolina interim head coach Steve Wilks, who had the support of numerous Panthers players but instead joined the San Francisco 49ers as defensive coordinator after being passed over in favor of Reich.

Reich was fired in Indianapolis midway through the 2022 season, where he went 40-33-1 in the regular season and had three winning seasons in his four full years. Mostly, he offers stability.

**RATING: 7.5**

## QUARTERBACKS

Young is an accurate, brainy workaholic who showed in college he can process beautifully in real time. The question is his size: he's 5-foot-10 and will likely be the shortest starting QB in the league, not only this season but maybe for the next several seasons. The Panthers have made their peace with this, which is a good thing because, as Young said on the eve of the draft: "I can't grow."

The Panthers also have signed Andy Dalton, the veteran who could certainly start a few games as needed and will also serve as another mentor to Young. Matt Corral, the Panthers' third-round draft pick in 2022, missed that entire year due to injury and is now a third-stringer who is realistically more or less a rookie, too. Make no mistake: This will be Young's show, for better or for worse.

**RATING: 7**

## RUNNING BACKS

The Panthers received an enormous self-inflicted wound at this position when they traded away Christian McCaffrey for four draft picks to San Francisco in October. The do-it-all back was leading the team in both rushing and receiving at the time.

Carolina would like Miles Sanders, the former Philadelphia Eagle, to fulfill a similar role for them in 2023. Sanders will get the lion's share of touches, with Chuba Hubbard and Rasheem Blackshear backing him up. The Panthers really need a big season out of Sanders, who will also serve as a security blanket out of the backfield for Young.

**RATING: 7.5**

## RECEIVERS

This unit has been almost entirely remade. With Moore departing in the trade to get the No. 1 pick and Reich a coach who loves to utilize the tight end, the Panthers acquired

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

The youth movement is in full effect in Carolina. As an organization, they have put themselves in a situation where they have no choice but to rely on young players. It has yet to click for WR **Terrace Marshall Jr.**, who has impressed in spurts while succumbing to porous quarterback play. Suddenly, he finds himself as the de facto WR1 after the team dealt off DJ Moore (Bears). Veterans Adam Thielen and DJ Chark were signed in the offseason, but Marshall is the one who can be a real difference-maker. ... The Panthers will be transitioning to a new 3-4 scheme under coordinator Ejiro Evero. This bodes well for LB **Amare Barno**, who will look to take advantage of his size and speed on the edge. He is expected to compete for one of the starting outside linebacker roles. ... Another player who stands to benefit is LB **Brady Christensen**, who showed some sparks as a rookie and could be looming to take over at one of the inside spots. With so many moving parts and players transitioning to new positions, expect the Carolina defense to look entirely different. Be forewarned: there will be growing pains.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

MILES SANDERS

Every rookie quarterback could use a star running back to take the pressure off, and that's what the Panthers hope Sanders is for Bryce Young this season.

Coming off his best season in Philadelphia, where he ran for 1,269 yards and scored 11 rushing touchdowns for the reigning NFC champions, Sanders signed a four-year, $25.4 million deal with Carolina.

Sanders played under both Frank Reich (as the offensive coordinator) and assistant coach Duce Staley while with the Eagles. Although Sanders, 26, hasn't scored a receiving TD in three years, the Panthers want him to be a three-down back, so his pass-catching skills will need to improve in this offense. Given what his workload will be, anything less than a 1,000-yard rushing season would be a disappointment.

Shaq Thompson
Photo by Joe Robbins

three possible starting pass-catchers in the free-agent market: Adam Thielen, DJ Chark Jr. and tight end Hayden Hurst. Thielen, who will be 33 when the season begins and scored 55 career touchdowns with Minnesota, has lost a step but remains a threat near the end zone and will work mostly from the slot. Chark is supposed to be the speedster the Panthers have too often lacked.

The Panthers haven't had a reliable pass-catching tight end since Greg Olsen; that's what Hurst is supposed to be. Likely starter Terrace Marshall Jr. has been only average in two seasons, but does have some big-play potential (17.5 average in 2022) and flashed at times late last year. Second-round draft pick Jonathan Mingo will present another big target off the bench. All of it seems a little tenuous.

**RATING: 7**

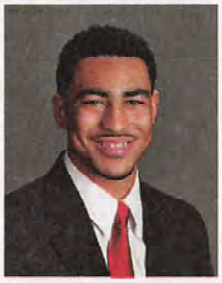
## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Long an Achilles heel for Carolina, the Panthers finally can say this is a position of strength. Their starting five of (from left to right) Ickey Ekwonu, Brady Christensen, Bradley Bozeman, Austin Corbett and Taylor Moton is made up of mostly high draft picks and/or players who have won big in previous NFL stops. The Panthers believed Ekwonu was the best lineman in the 2022 draft and still think so after he had an impressive rookie season. Re-signing Bozeman in the offseason was important.

Injuries can always throw a wrench into an offensive line and indeed Corbett's torn ACL at the end of last season will mean he won't start at the beginning of this one. Christensen also is coming off injury. The Panthers' depth could be questionable. So fourth-round draft pick Chandler Zavala, briefly a teammate of Ekwonu's at North Carolina State, might get a chance quickly if the starting guards don't heal up.

**RATING: 7**

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES



### KEY ADDITION:

**QB Bryce Young**

The rookie immediately became the face of the franchise when the Panthers picked him No. 1 overall in April. Ideally, Carolina wants Young to take over the top job from Andy Dalton ASAP.

### OTHER ADDITIONS:

S Vonn Bell, WR Damiere Byrd, WR DJ Chark Jr., QB Andy Dalton, LB Kamu Grugier-Hill, TE Hayden Hurst, C Justin McCray, DL John Penisini, S Eric Rowe, WR Adam Thielen, DT Shy Tuttle

### KEY LOSS:

**WR DJ Moore (17/17)***

Chicago was insistent that Moore be a part of the deal where the Panthers traded up for the first overall pick of the 2023 NFL draft. Replacing Moore, a YAC specialist, won't be easy.

### OTHER LOSSES:

S Juston Burris (5/3), CB T.J. Carrie (7/0), S Sean Chandler (17/0), QB Sam Darnold (6/6), C Pat Elflein (6/6), T Cam Erving (11/0), **RB D'Onta Foreman (17/9)**, K Zane Gonzalez (0/0), **S Myles Hartsfield (15/10)**, WR Rashard Higgins (3/0), **DT Matt Ioannidis** (13/13), LB Joel Iyiegbuniwe (7/0), G Michael Jordan (17/0), LB Cory Littleton (15/7), WR/RS Andre Roberts (3/0), QB P.J. Walker (6/5), LB Damien Wilson (17/5)*

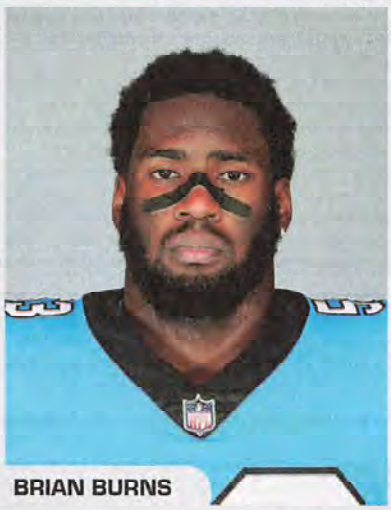
**Total games played/started lost: 182/81**

### STARTERS RETURNING

18: 9 offense, 9 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS



BRIAN BURNS

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Baker Mayfield | 206 | 119 | 1313 | 6 | 6 |
| Sam Darnold | 140 | 82 | 1143 | 7 | 3 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| D'Onta Foreman | 203 | 914 | 4.5 | 5 |
| Chuba Hubbard | 95 | 466 | 4.9 | 2 |
| Christian McCaffrey | 85 | 393 | 4.6 | 2 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| D.J. Moore | 63 | 888 | 14.1 | 7 |
| Terrace Marshall Jr. | 28 | 490 | 17.5 | 1 |
| Shi Smith | 22 | 296 | 13.5 | 2 |

**Kicking:** Pineiro 30/32 XPs, 33/35 FGs, 129 points
**Tackles:** Thompson 135, Luvu 111, Woods 86
**Sacks:** Burns 12.5, Luvu 7, Haynes 5
**INTs:** Horn 3, Henderson 2, Jackson 2

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 306.2 | 29 |
| Passing Offense | 176.2 | 29 |
| Rushing Offense | 130.0 | 10 |
| Points | 20.4 | 20 |
| Sacked | 36 | 11 |
| 3rd Down % | 31.7 | 30 |

| Defense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Defense | 350.2 | 22 |
| Passing Defense | 227.5 | 22 |
| Rushing Defense | 122.6 | 18 |
| Points Allowed | 22 | 19 |
| INTs | 10 | T-24 |
| Sacks | 35 | T-25 |
| Turnover Diff. | -4 | T-24 |

# PANTHERS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | Byrd, Damiere | 5-9 | 175 | 8 | South Carolina | 14/4/0/3 | UFA,ATL 23 | CFA CARO 15 | Speedster began career in Carolina; has played for five teams in past five years. |
| **17** | **Clark Jr., DJ** | **6-3** | **200** | **6** | **Louisiana State** | **11/10/0/2** | **UFA,DET 23** | **D2 JAX 18** | **Brought in to take the top off defenses with his top-end speed, big-play potential.** |
| **81** | **Hurst, Hayden (TE)** | **6-4** | **245** | **6** | **South Carolina** | **13/13/0/3** | **UFA,CIN 23** | **D1 BLT 18** | **Panthers haven't had a reliable pass-catcher at tight end since Greg Olsen left.** |
| **88** | **Marshall Jr., Terrace** | **6-2** | **200** | **3** | **Louisiana State** | **14/9/1/2** | **D2 21** | **D2 CARO 21** | **17.5 yards per catch in 2022 means former 2nd-round pick will get bigger role in 2023.** |
| 15 | Mingo, Jonathan | 6-2 | 220 | R | Mississippi | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 CARO 23 | Rookie said on draft night he can help by turning 5-yard passes into 80 yarders. |
| 46 | Ricci, Giovanni (TE) | 6 3 | 240 | 3 | Western Michigan | 15/3/0/2 | FA 21 | CFA CARO 20 | Listed as a tight end, the versatile Ricci also can play fullback when needed. |
| 5 | Shenault Jr., Laviska | 6-1 | 220 | 4 | Colorado | 13/5/0/4 | T,JAX 22 | D2 JAX 20 | Talented, but has to prove he's more than a flanker-screen or gadget-play guy. |
| 12 | Smith, Shi | 5-10 | 190 | 3 | South Carolina | 17/6 | D6 21 | D6 CARO 21 | Experience as returner is his best insurance for roster spot, but not foolproof. |
| 84 | Sullivan, Stephen (TE) | 6-5 | 245 | 2 | Louisiana State | 14/0/0/3 | FA 21 | D7 SEA 20 | Looks the part, but has only two total catches in three NFL seasons. |
| **19** | **Thielen, Adam** | **6-2** | **195** | **10** | **Minnesota State-Mankato** | **17/17** | **FA 23** | **CFA MINN 13** | **Beloved for years in Minnesota; wants to prove there's still some gas in the tank.** |
| 80 | Thomas, Ian (TE) | 6-4 | 260 | 6 | Indiana | 17/17 | D4 18 | D4 CARO 18 | Looks like red-zone threat coming off bus, but only four TDs in five Panther years. |
| 82 | Tremble, Tommy (TE) | 6-4 | 250 | 3 | Notre Dame | 17/4 | D3 21 | D3 CARO 21 | Hasn't made opponents tremble, but catches enough balls to make them pay attention. |
| 16 | Williams, Preston | 6-5 | 215 | 4 | Colorado State | 1/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA MIA 19 | Good height at 6-5, but he would need a great training camp to make team. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **56** | **Bozeman, Bradley (C/G)** | **6-5** | **325** | **6** | **Alabama** | **17/11** | **UFA,BLT 22** | **D6 BLT 18** | **As the starting center, will be very helpful to Young because he's so smart.** |
| **70** | **Christensen, Brady (LG)** | **6-6** | **300** | **3** | **Brigham Young** | **17/17** | **D3 21** | **D3 CARO 21** | **Broke his ankle in last game of 2022, but likely starter hopes to be ready for camp.** |
| 74 | Coleman, Larnel (T) | 6-6 | 310 | 3 | Massachusetts | 1/0/2/10 | FA 22 | D7 MIA 21 | Spent 2022 on practice squads: first in Miami, then in Carolina. |
| **63** | **Corbett, Austin (RG)** | **6-4** | **305** | **6** | **Nevada** | **17/17** | **UFA,LAR 22** | **D2 CLV 18** | **Likely won't be ready for Week 1 because of torn ACL suffered in last game of 2022.** |
| **79** | **Ekwonu, Ikem (LT)** | **6-4** | **320** | **2** | **North Carolina State** | **17/17** | **D1 22** | **D1 CARO 22** | **"Ickey" was who team hoped for as rookie LT; hope for even stronger second year.** |
| 66 | Mays, Cade (T/G) | 6-6 | 325 | 2 | Tennessee | 11/2/0/6 | D6 22 | D7 CARO 22 | Versatile enough to play all five offensive line positions in a pinch. |
| 64 | McCray, Justin (G) | 6-3 | 320 | 7 | Central Florida | 12/2/3/2 | UFA,HOUS 23 | CFA TENN 14 | With 76 career NFL games under belt, he may be a good option for Corbett's spot early. |
| **72** | **Moton, Taylor (RT)** | **6-5** | **325** | **7** | **Western Michigan** | **17/17** | **D2 17** | **D2 CARO 17** | **Panthers' highest-paid offensive player could take next step and make a Pro Bowl.** |
| 68 | Tecklenburg, Sam (C) | 6-4 | 310 | 2 | Baylor | 0/0/0/2 | FA 22 | CFA CARO 20 | On a team with few true centers, Tecklenburg probably will find a backup niche. |
| 62 | Zavala, Chandler (G) | 6-3 | 322 | R | North Carolina State | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 CARO 23 | Rookie teamed with Ekwonu with Wolfpack; might get some time due to guard injuries. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Blackshear, Raheem | 5-9 | 190 | 2 | Virginia Tech | 13/1/0/2 | FA 22 | CFA BUFF 22 | Panthers like his elusiveness, pass-catching ability; a third-down back. |
| 30 | Hubbard, Chuba | 6-1 | 210 | 3 | Oklahoma State | 15/2/0/2 | D4 21 | D4 CARO 21 | Sanders' primary sub on running downs, Hubbard is best when he stays north-south. |
| **6** | **Sanders, Miles** | **5-11** | **210** | **5** | **Penn State** | **17/15** | **UFA,PHA 23** | **D2 PHA 19** | **Needs to become a star quickly on a team where most of the skill players are new.** |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | *Corral, Matt | 6-2 | 205 | 2 | Mississippi | 0/0/0/0 | D3 22 | D3 CARO 22 | Bad start to career; was hurt for all of 2022, then got "recruited over" in 2023. |
| 14 | Dalton, Andy | 6-2 | 220 | 13 | Texas Christian | 14/14/3/0 | UFA,NORL 23 | D2 CIN 11 | The Red Rifle will keep the QB1 seat warm until Young is ready, then will mentor. |
| 11 | Eason, Jacob | 6-6 | 230 | 3 | Washington | 1/0/1/0 | FA 23 | D4 IND 20 | Won't make team unless one of other three get hurt, but a practice-squad candidate. |
| **9** | **Young, Bryce** | **6-10** | **204** | **R** | **Alabama** | **0/0** | **D1 23** | **D1 CARO 23** | **All Panthers want is for him to become the next Russell Wilson. Easy enough, right?** |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 94 | Anderson, Henry (E) | 6-6 | 300 | 9 | Stanford | 11/0/0/1 | FA 22 | D3 IND 15 | Minor stroke caused him to miss six games in middle of 2022; has experience in the 3-4. |
| **95** | **Brown, Derrick (E)** | **6-5** | **320** | **4** | **Auburn** | **17/17** | **D1 20** | **D1 CARO 20** | **One of team's most talented players, Brown has Pro-Bowl potential if he masters 3-4.** |
| 97 | Gross-Matos, Yetur (E) | 6-5 | 265 | 4 | Penn State | 17/17 | D2 20 | D2 CARO 20 | Needs a big year; too often a non-factor for long stretches of the game. |
| 78 | McCall, Marquan (T) | 6-3 | 345 | 2 | Kentucky | 16/0/0/1 | CFA 22 | CFA CARO 22 | Raw, but massive enough that he made the team as a UDFA in 2022 and played 15 games. |
| 76 | Penisini, John (T) | 6-2 | 325 | 3 | Utah | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D6 DET 20 | Retired after just two NFL seasons with Detroit; then un-retired and joined Panthers. |
| 93 | Roy, Bravvion (T) | 6-1 | 330 | 4 | Baylor | 13/4 | D6 20 | D6 CARO 20 | His unlikely interception of Lamar Jackson highlighted his 2022 season. |
| **99** | **Tuttle, Shy (NT)** | **6-3** | **300** | **5** | **Tennessee** | **17/14** | **UFA,NORL 23** | **CFA NORL 19** | **Strong run-stopping force whose uncle Perry played in the NFL and at Clemson.** |
| **96** | **Williams, DeShawn (E)** | **6-1** | **295** | **5** | **Clemson** | **17/15** | **FA 20** | **CFA CIN 15** | **A favorite of new DC Evero, who brought him along from Denver after 2022 season.** |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 90 | Barno, Amare (O) | 6-6 | 245 | 2 | Virginia Tech | 9/0/0/8 | D6 22 | D6 CARO 22 | Sacked future teammate Dalton last year when QB was playing for Saints. Very fast. |
| **53** | **Burns, Brian (O)** | **6-5** | **250** | **5** | **Florida State** | **16/16/0/1** | **D1 19** | **D1 CARO 19** | **Panthers' best overall player is lightning fast; has made Pro Bowl past two seasons.** |
| 54 | Grugier-Hill, Kamu (O) | 6-2 | 220 | 8 | Eastern Illinois | 15/6/0/0 | FA 22 | D6 NE 16 | Panthers are fifth team for well-traveled journeyman. |
| **98** | **Haynes Sr., Marquis (O)** | **6-2** | **235** | **6** | **Mississippi** | **17/1** | **D4 18** | **D4 CARO 18** | **Late bloomer had a career-best five sacks in 2022 at age 29.** |
| 52 | Johnson, DJ (O) | 6-4 | 260 | R | Oregon | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 CARO 23 | Spent six years in college without great numbers, but team attracted to size/speed. |
| **49** | **Luvu, Frankie (I)** | **6-3** | **235** | **6** | **Washington State** | **15/14/0/2** | **FA 21** | **CFA NYJ 18** | **Fine blitzer who picks up the energy of the defensive huddle just by walking into it.** |
| 57 | Mosby, Arron (I) | 6-4 | 245 | 2 | Fresno State | 3/0/0/5 | FA 23 | CFA CARO 22 | Undrafted rookie bounced between practice squad and active roster in 2022. |
| 40 | *Smith, Brandon (O) | 6-3 | 240 | 2 | Penn State | 12/1/0/1 | U4 22 | U4 CARO 22 | Special-teams regular who will have a chance to make more impact this season. |
| **7** | **Thompson, Shaq (I)** | **6-0** | **230** | **9** | **Washington** | **17/17** | **D1 15** | **D1 CARO 15** | **Took a pay cut to stick around, and the Panthers certainly can use his tackling skills.** |
| 50 | Wooten, Chandler (I) | 6-3 | 230 | 2 | Auburn | 9/0/0/2 | FA 22 | CFA ARIZ 22 | 2022 UDFA was signed off Arizona's practice squad last year. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **24** | **Bell, Vonn (S)** | **5-11** | **205** | **8** | **Ohio State** | **16/16** | **UFA,CIN 23** | **D2 NORL 16** | **15 forced fumbles in his career means Bell could help Panthers' turnover issues.** |
| 21 | Chinn , Jeremy (S) | 6-3 | 220 | 4 | Soutern Illinois | 11/11/0/0 | D2 20 | D2 CARO 20 | Rover can play in secondary or at LB, but needs to make more big plays. |
| 33 | Dorn, Myles (S) | 6-2 | 205 | 3 | North Carolina | 5/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA MINN 20 | Originally a UDFA out of UNC, now coming back home to Carolina. |
| 42 | Franklin Jr., Sam (S) | 6-3 | 210 | 4 | Temple | 17/1 | CFA 20 | CFA CARO 20 | He is Panthers' most consistent special-teams tackler. |
| 23 | Henderson, C.J. (CB) | 6-1 | 205 | 4 | Florida | 17/10 | T,JAX 21 | D1 JAX 20 | A talented, occasionally frustrating player Panthers need to be more consistent. |
| **8** | ***Horn, Jaycee (CB)** | **6-1** | **200** | **3** | **South Carolina** | **13/13/0/3** | **D1 21** | **D1 CARO 21** | **Pro-Bowl potential if he can play all 17 games; son of NFL's Joe.** |
| **26** | ***Jackson, Donte (CB)** | **5-10** | **180** | **6** | **Louisiana State** | **9/9/1/0** | **D2 18** | **D2 CARO 18** | **Has morphed into one of team's leaders and captains; needs to stay healthy.** |
| 36 | Miller III, Herb (S) | 6-2 | 290 | 2 | Florida Atlantic | 4/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA KC 19 | On the fringe; will need to contribute on special teams to make it. |
| 22 | Robinson, Jammie (S) | 5-11 | 190 | R | Florida State | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 CARO 23 | Rookie played both CB and safety in college; may be tried in both places. |
| 20 | Rowe, Eric (CB) | 6-1 | 205 | 9 | Utah | 14/6/0/3 | UFA,MIA 23 | D2 PHA 15 | On a team where hardly anyone has a Super Bowl ring, Rowe has two (with Patriots). |
| 25 | Taylor Jr., Keith (CB) | 6-3 | 195 | 3 | Washington | 17/2 | D5 21 | D5 CARO 21 | Very durable contributor has played in all 17 games in both NFL seasons. |
| 27 | *Thomas-Oliver III, Stantley (CB) | 6-0 | 190 | 4 | Florida International | 3/0/0/2 | D7 20 | D7 CARO 20 | Along with Franklin, he's most likely to be making the downfield special-teams tackle. |
| **25** | **Woods, Xavier (S)** | **5-11** | **200** | **7** | **Louisiana Tech** | **15/15/0/2** | **UFA,MINN 22** | **D6 DALL 17** | **Known as one of smartest players on team, but no INTs in 15 starts in 2022.** |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Hekker, Johnny (P) | 6-5 | 225 | 12 | Oregon State | 17/0 | FA 22 | CFA STL 12 | One of the NFL's best punters, Hekker is also an excellent holder. |
| 44 | Jansen, JJ (LS) | 6-2 | 235 | 16 | Notre Dame | 17/0 | T,GB 09 | CFA GB 08 | Panthers' longest-tenured player and probably their most well-read. |
| 4 | Pineiro, Eddy (K) | 5-11 | 190 | 5 | Florida | 17/0 | FA 22 | T,OAK 19 | After subbing in for 2022, earned a new contract after going 33-for-35 on FGs. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; SD=Supplemental Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; FFA=Franchise Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs C.J. Saunders (1, Ohio State), Josh Vann (South Carolina), Derek Wright (1, Utah State); T Ricky Lee (North Carolina A&T); Gs Deonte Brown (2, Alabama), Nash Jensen (North Dakota State); RBs Spencer Brown (1, Alabama-Birmingham), Cam Peoples (Appalachian State); DE Jalen Richmond (Oklahoma); DT Raequan Williams (2, Michigan State); LBs Austin Ajiake (Nevada-Las Vegas), Kobe Jones (1, Mississippi State), Eku Leota (Auburn), Travez Moore (Arizona State), Bumper Pool (Arkansas); CBs Mark Milton (Baylor), Colby Richardson (McNeese State), Rezjohn Wright (Oregon State); S Nico Bolden (Kent State)

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Panthers are making the switch from a 4-3 to 3-4 this year under new defensive coordinator Ejiro Evero, and partly because of that have brought in two likely starters as veterans to show the youngsters how a 3-4 is done. Shy Tuttle will be the starting nose tackle in base formations. DeShawn Williams played for Evero in Denver and will help implement the system, although he needs a strong training camp to hold onto his starting job.

Carolina's best defensive lineman is Derrick Brown, who will become an end in the 3-4 and who has a knack of getting into the backfield. In the trade up to No. 1 to get Young, Brown was one of the players Chicago was interested in grabbing, but Carolina wouldn't part with him.

**RATING: 7**

## LINEBACKERS

Carolina's best defensive player and perhaps the best player on the team is Brian Burns, a superb speed rusher who becomes an outside linebacker in the 3-4. Burns had ankle surgery in April, but is supposed to be able to begin training camp in July with no limitations.

The question is who will be the bookend rusher on the other side for Carolina (the Panthers once had one, but unfortunately didn't keep Haason Reddick around and let him sign with Philadelphia before the 2022 season). Marquis Haynes does have some pass-rushing ability and may have the best shot. Carolina also likes to use Energizer bunny Frankie Luvu as a blitzer – he will rotate at the inside and outside linebacker spots in the 3-4.

Inside linebacker Shaq Thompson came back for the 2023 season at a reduced salary and will provide both leadership and a lot of tackles, although he's a step slower than he used to be. Thompson and Burns are the defense's most respected leaders and will help set the locker room culture.

**RATING: 8**

## SECONDARY

There's a good bit of talent here, but durability is a question. Jaycee Horn can be a shutdown cornerback, but in two seasons he's missed nearly 50 percent of the games due to injuries. Cornerbacks C.J. Henderson and Donte Jackson also have a tendency to get banged up, but both have ball skills. Henderson can have problems with consistency and the Panthers didn't pick up his fifth-year option because of it.

Strong safety Jeremy Chinn will be a rover in the 3-4 and is more effective closer to the line of scrimmage. Chinn is a dynamic hitter, but his big-play production fell off considerably in 2022. Veteran Vonn Bell is supposed to lend some toughness and leadership to the group, while Xavier Woods could also start and is one of the Panthers' smartest players. Sam Franklin is a special-teams ace who is also back.

**RATING: 6**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

This is one of the Panthers' strengths. Kicker Eddy Pineiro returns after an exemplary 2022 when he made 33 of a possible 35 field-goal attempts, although one of the misses did cost Carolina a game at Atlanta. Punter Johnny Hekker remains one of the NFL's best. Long snapper JJ Jansen has played in more games than any Panther in history. The returners are only OK – Chuba Hubbard on kickoffs and Shi Smith on punts are solid but unspectacular.

**RATING: 8**

## INTANGIBLES

Carolina is in a honeymoon phase after the Matt Rhule era produced an 11-27 record and not much to cheer about. The new coach-quarterback combo of Reich and Young seems to be a natural, with Reich having played the position and knowing that he has the job security to ease Young into the role and coach him firmly but gently.

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Field Level Media

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Brian Burns will be the centerpiece of the defense, which is changing to a 3-4 scheme. Burns, one of the league's quickest pass rushers, set a career high last season with 12.5 sacks and, at 25, might break the franchise record of 15 in a season as long as he recovers fully from offseason ankle surgery.

2. Who's going to be the No. 1 receiver? The position has been thoroughly remade after the departure of DJ Moore, and it will be interesting to see which receiver Bryce Young bonds with first. Right now, it's a crapshoot.

3. Remember Andy Dalton. The well-traveled QB has played 12 seasons and started at least six NFL games in every one of them. If Young gets hurt or starts slowly in training camp, don't be surprised to see a few games with Dalton in charge.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 7-10**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | CLEVELAND | 24-26 |
| Sept. 18 | at N.Y. Giants | 16-19 |
| Sept. 25 | NEW ORLEANS | 22-14 |
| Oct. 2 | ARIZONA | 16-26 |
| Oct. 9 | SAN FRANCISCO | 15-37 |
| Oct. 16 | at L.A. Rams | 10-24 |
| Oct. 23 | TAMPA BAY | 21-3 |
| Oct. 30 | at Atlanta (OT) | 34-37 |
| Nov. 6 | at Cincinnati | 21-42 |
| Nov. 10 | ATLANTA | 25-15 |
| Nov. 20 | at Baltimore | 3-13 |
| Nov. 27 | DENVER | 23-10 |
| Dec. 11 | at Seattle | 30-24 |
| Dec. 18 | PITTSBURGH | 16-24 |
| Dec. 24 | DETROIT | 37-23 |
| Jan. 1 | at Tampa Bay | 24-30 |
| Jan. 8 | at New Orleans | 10-7 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Eastern**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | N.Y. JETS | TBD |
| Aug. 17-21 | at N.Y. Giants | TBD |
| Aug. 25 | DETROIT (Fri) | 8:00 |
| Sept. 10 | at Atlanta | 1:00 |
| Sept. 18 | NEW ORLEANS (Mon) | 7:15 |
| Sept. 24 | at Seattle | 4:05 |
| Oct. 1 | MINNESOTA | 1:00 |
| Oct. 8 | at Detroit | 1:00 |
| Oct. 15 | at Miami | 1:00 |
| | BYE | |
| Oct. 29 | HOUSTON | 1:00 |
| Nov. 5 | INDIANAPOLIS | 4:05 |
| Nov. 9 | at Chicago (Thu) | 8:15 |
| Nov. 19 | DALLAS | 1:00 |
| Nov. 26 | at Tennessee | 1:00 |
| Dec. 3 | at Tampa Bay | 1:00 |
| Dec. 10 | at New Orleans | 1:00 |
| Dec. 16/17 | ATLANTA | TBD |
| Dec. 24 | GREEN BAY | 1:00 |
| Dec. 31 | at Jacksonville | 1:00 |
| TBD | TAMPA BAY | TBD |

# NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

## Saints Hopes Hinge on Carr

The Saints have seen their regular season win totals decline from 13 to 12 to 9 to 7 the past four seasons, but the team's brain trust is confident 2022 was an outlier and expects to return to its winning ways this season. The mediocre NFC South Division certainly gives them reason for optimism. The signing of veteran Derek Carr solidifies the quarterback position for the first time since Drew Brees retired and gives the Saints the most proven signal-caller in the division. Carr's arrival has bolstered confidence throughout the roster. The defense, which ranked fifth overall and held the team's final 10 opponents to an average of 14.5 points a game, remains a strength. The starting offensive line returns entirely intact after an injury-riddled season.

The offense should be vastly improved by the addition of Carr and the return to health of No. 1 receiver Michael Thomas and road-grading left tackle Trevor Penning. And the schedule is user-friendly, featuring an inordinate number of teams led by inexperienced or unproven quarterbacks. Second-year head coach Dennis Allen needs a big year to restore confidence with fans, and there's reason to believe the Saints can improve their record by three or four wins and return to the playoffs. The season will probably rise or fail on the strength of Carr's performance. If he can simply run the offense, avoid mistakes and consistently make plays with his strong right arm, the Saints have enough firepower on defense and special teams to win the NFC South.

**Demario Davis**
Photo by Margaret Bowles via AP

**1**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 7-10

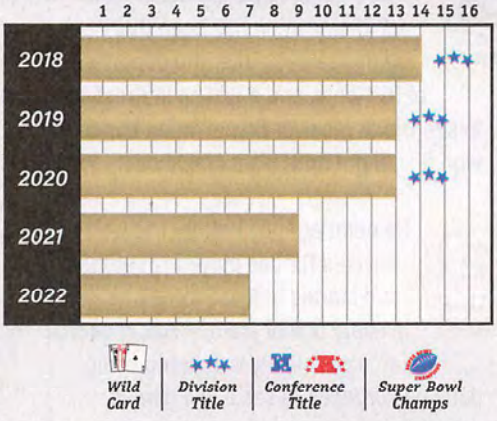
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 2-4

**STADIUM:** Caesars Superdome

**CAPACITY:** 73,000

**SURFACE:** Turf Nation—M6-M

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

**OCHSNER SPORTS PERFORMANCE CENTER**
**5800 AIRLINE DRIVE**
**METAIRIE, LA 70003**
**(504) 733-0255**
**WWW.NEWORLEANSSAINTS.COM**

**TRAINING CAMP:** Ochsner Sports Performance Center, Metairie, LA
**HEAD COACH:** Dennis Allen
- 2nd season with Saints
- 7-10 overall
- 5th season as NFL head coach
- 15-38 overall

**OWNER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Gayle Benson
**EVP/GENERAL MANAGER:** Mickey Loomis
**VP/ASST. GM/COLLEGE PERS.:** Jeff Ireland
**DIR. PRO PERSONNEL:** Michael Parenton

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pete Carmichael | Offensive coordinator | 24 | 18 |
| Bob Bicknell | Sr. offensive assistant | 15 | 2 |
| Ronald Curry | @Quarterbacks | 11 | 8 |
| Doug Marrone | Offensive line | 17 | 5 |
| Kevin Carberry | Assistant line | 7 | 1 |
| Joel Thomas | Running backs | 9 | 9 |
| Kodi Burns | Receivers | 2 | 2 |
| Clancy Barone | Tight ends | 18 | 1 |
| D.J. Williams | Offensive assistant | 5 | 5 |
| Kevin Petry | Offensive assistant | 7 | 7 |
| Jordan Traylor | Offensive assistant | 3 | 3 |
| Jahri Evans | Offensive assistant | 1 | 1 |
| Joe Woods | Defensive coordinator | 20 | 1 |
| Peter Giunta | Sr. defensive assistant | 33 | 8 |
| Todd Grantham | Defensive line | 12 | 1 |
| Brian Young | Pass rush specialist | 15 | 15 |
| Michael Hodges | Linebackers | 7 | 7 |
| Marcus Robertson | Defensive backs | 16 | 1 |
| Sterling Moore | Defensive assistant | 2 | 2 |
| Adam Gristick | Defensive assistant | 1 | 1 |
| Darren Rizzi | Special teams coord. | 15 | 5 |
| Phil Galiano | Asst. special teams | 7 | 5 |
| Matt Rhea | Dir. Sports science | 3 | 3 |
| Charles Byrd | Strength & Conditioning | 16 | 16 |
| Rob Wenning | Strength & Conditioning | 14 | 14 |
| Matt Clapp | Strength & Conditioning | 3 | 3 |

@ Offensive pass game coordinator

## SAINTS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/11 | Chris Olave | WR | Starter |
| 2021 | 1/28 | Payton Turner | DE | Backup |
| 2020 | 1/24 | Cesar Ruiz | C | Starter |
| 2019 | 2/48 | Erik McCoy | C | Starter |
| 2018 | 1/14 | Marcus Davenport | DE | Vikings |

## COACHING

Allen didn't get many breaks during his first season as Saints head coach. Subpar quarterback play and a slew of injuries to key players resulted in the club's worst season in nearly two decades. Allen showed the proper sense of urgency by landing Carr in free agency and overhauling the defensive coaching staff. Allen's defensive game plans are lauded for their attention to detail, but his first Saints team did not display that same efficiency during games, ranking near the bottom of the league in giveaways and pre-snap penalties. Allen is well-liked throughout the Saints operation and has the full support of management and ownership, but that loyalty will be tested if he fails to turn things around in Year 2.

**RATING: 7**

## QUARTERBACKS

The Jameis Winston-Andy Dalton experiment is over after one ugly season. Enter Carr, the team's most decorated quarterback since Brees. Carr will provide the leadership and consistency the position has lacked since Brees retired in 2020. Carr has a strong right arm and can make every throw on the field. The Saints believe he'll thrive in their quarterback-friendly system behind the team's veteran offensive line. The Saints need Carr to stay healthy because there are question marks behind him. Winston is an experienced albeit erratic backup. Rookie Jake Haener will serve as a developmental prospect. Jack-of-all-trades Taysom Hill is officially listed as a tight end, but makes plays from a variety of positions. With his rare blend of size and speed, he shines as a power running threat at quarterback in short-yardage situations.

**RATING: 7.5**

## RUNNING BACKS

Alvin Kamara remains one of the most dynamic playmakers in the league, but his production declined dramatically last season as defenses focused their game plans on him. Kamara regularly makes yards after initial contact with his slithery running style and uncanny balance. He faces potential league discipline because of a looming felony assault charge from 2022. With that in mind, the Saints signed Jamaal Williams in free agency and selected Kendre Miller in the third round of the draft. Williams runs with vision and balance. Like Kamara, he's not a home-run hitter, but knows how to move the chains and has a nose for the goal line, as evidenced by his league-leading 17 touchdowns runs last season. Miller is built

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

With a division that is up for grabs, the Saints are one franchise that can't seem to figure out whether they are rebuilding or reloading. The team does have some exciting developmental players on offense including WR **Rashid Shaheed** and TE Juwan Johnson, each of whom had around 500 receiving yards. An undrafted rookie out of Weber State, Shaheed displayed deep-ball prowess, averaging over 17 yards per catch. Opponents must respect his long speed. Meanwhile, Johnson has emerged as an underneath security blanket and red-zone mismatch. The lengthy converted wide-out led the team with seven touchdowns a year ago and is showing signs of comfort at his new position. ... On the opposite side of the ball, CBs **Paulson Adebo** and **Alontae Taylor** bring just as much enthusiasm. Adebo got out of the gates slow due to injury in what was supposed to be his bust-out year. To his credit, he did bounce back nicely. As a rookie, the tenacious Taylor showed flashes, but suffered a knee injury late in the season. With Marshon Lattimore and Bradley Roby in the fold, Adebo and Taylor, when healthy, could be competing against each other for a starting role, or playing alongside each other in nickel packages.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

**MICHAEL THOMAS**

Thomas was on a Hall of Fame pace during his first four seasons in New Orleans, but foot injuries have limited him to 10 games and 56 pass receptions combined the past three seasons. The two-time All-Pro receiver took a massive pay cut in the off-season and signed an incentive-laden, one-year contract. The potential $10 million deal pays him half of what he previously made, but it gives him flexibility. If Thomas can stay healthy and produce, he'll be positioned to sign a lucrative, multi-year deal with the Saints or be free to hit the open free-agent market next spring. No Saints player has more on the line this season than Thomas. His once-promising career now hangs in the balance.

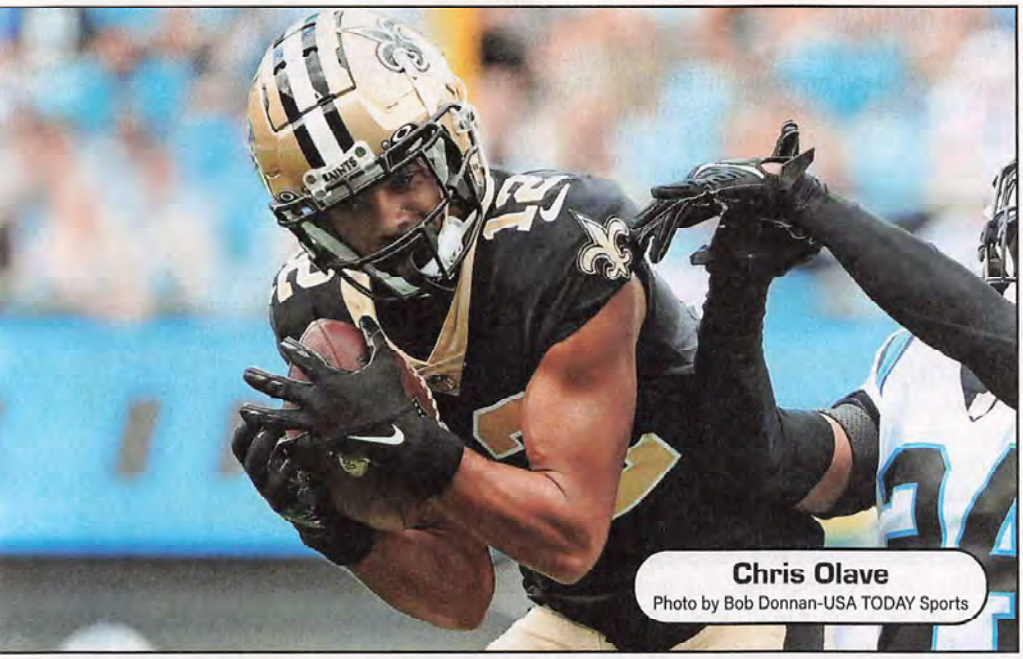
# SAINTS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Edwards, Bryan | 6-3 | 215 | 4 | South Carolina | 7/1/0/4 | FA 23 | D3 LV 20 | Powerful veteran provides reliable depth behind Michael Thomas at X receiver spot. |
| 7 | Hill, Taysom (TE) | 6-2 | 221 | 7 | Brigham Young | 16/8/0/1 | W,GB 17 | CFA GB 17 | Versatile, athletic jack-of-all-trades makes plays at almost any position on offense. |
| **83** | **Johnson, Juwan (TE)** | **6-4** | **231** | **4** | **Oregon** | **16/12/0/1** | **FA 20** | **CFA NORL 20** | **Former receiver is coming off breakout performance in first full season at tight end.** |
| 18 | Kirkwood, Keith | 6-3 | 210 | 4 | Temple | 3/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA NORL 18 | Reliable veteran knows system, provides depth as blocker, possession target outside. |
| 33 | Merritt, Kirk | 6-1 | 214 | 1 | Arkansas State | 4/0/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA MIA 20 | Developmental prospect can run after catch; is one of the best athletes on the team. |
| **12** | **Olave, Chris** | **6-0** | **187** | **2** | **Ohio State** | **15/9/0/2** | **D1 22** | **D1 NORL 22** | **Skilled route-runner uses his speed, savvy to beat defenders in zone or man coverage.** |
| 17 | Perry, A.T. | 6-5 | 205 | R | Wake Forest | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 NORL 23 | Rangy athlete excels at making contested catches; needs to become more consistent. |
| **89** | **Shaheed, Rashid (RS)** | **6-0** | **180** | **2** | **Weber State** | **12/6/0/0** | **FA 22** | **CFA NORL 22** | **Former undrafted free agent makes plays all over the field with his sprinter's speed.** |
| 10 | Smith, Tre'Quan | 6-2 | 210 | 6 | Central Florida | 15/6/0/2 | D3 18 | D3 NORL 18 | Reliable veteran is an excellent blocker and valuable role player in run game. |
| **13** | ***Thomas, Michael** | **6-3** | **212** | **8** | **Ohio State** | **3/3/0/5** | **D2 16** | **D2 NO 16** | **Injury-riddled vet will try to regain All-Pro form in potential make-or-break year.** |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 79 | *Durant, Yasir (T) | 6-7 | 330 | 3 | Missouri | 1/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA KC 20 | Former undrafted free agent will try to win a roster spot at backup guard and tackle. |
| 74 | Hurst, James (T) | 6-5 | 310 | 10 | North Carolina | 16/16/0/1 | FA 20 | CFA BLT 14 | Solid vet has position flexibility and provides insurance for Penning at left tackle. |
| 66 | Kidd, Lewis (G) | 6-6 | 311 | 2 | Montana State | 13/1/0/4 | CFA 22 | CFA NORL 22 | Promising tackle prospect needs to improve strength to take next step in development. |
| **78** | **McCoy, Erik (C)** | **6-4** | **303** | **5** | **Texas A&M** | **13/13/0/0** | **D2 19** | **D2 NORL 19** | **Tough, athletic veteran center is one of the most underrated players on the roster.** |
| 72 | Norton, Storm (T) | 6-7 | 317 | 4 | Toledo | 12/0/0/5 | FA 23 | CFA DET 17 | Powerful run-blocking veteran will compete for a roster spot at backup right tackle. |
| **75** | **Peat, Andrus (IG)** | **6-7** | **316** | **9** | **Stanford** | **11/11/1/5** | **D1 15** | **D1 NORL 15** | **Incumbent starting left guard has battled injuries, inconsistency in recent seasons.** |
| **70** | **Penning, Trevor (IT)** | **6-7** | **325** | **2** | **Northern Iowa** | **6/1/0/0** | **D1 22** | **D1 NORL 22** | **Former first-round pick takes over at left tackle after injury-marred rookie year.** |
| **71** | **Ramczyk, Ryan (RT)** | **6-6** | **314** | **7** | **Wisconsin** | **16/16/0/1** | **D1 17** | **D1 NORL 17** | **Talented, experienced former All-Pro is a model of consistency at right-tackle spot.** |
| **51** | ***Ruiz, Cesar (rG)** | **6-4** | **316** | **4** | **Michigan** | **14/14/0/0** | **D1 20** | **D1 NORL 20** | **Athletic guard turned corner in 2022 after shaky start to his career in New Orleans.** |
| 64 | Saldiveri, Nick (T) | 6-6 | 316 | R | Old Dominion | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 NORL 23 | Smart, versatile, competitive rookie will be groomed to be a future starter at guard. |
| 76 | Throckmorton, Calvin (T) | 6-5 | 309 | 3 | Oregon | 14/6/1/2 | FA 21 | CFA NORL 20 | Versatile young backup provides depth along the interior in his third season. |
| 67 | Young, Landon (T) | 6-7 | 321 | 3 | Kentucky | 16/2/1/0 | D6 21 | D6 NORL 21 | Third-year swingman can play either side, but is more comfortable at right tackle. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 | Benjamin, Eno | 5-9 | 207 | 4 | Arizona State | 15/3/0/3 | W,HOUS 22 | D7 ARIZ 20 | Versatile backup will need to make an impact on special teams to earn roster spot. |
| **41** | **Kamara, Alvin** | **5-10** | **215** | **7** | **Tennessee** | **15/13/0/2** | **D3 17** | **D3 NORL 17** | **Veteran playmaker could face lengthy suspension for off-field transgression in 2022.** |
| 25 | Miller, Kendre | 6-0 | 220 | R | Texas Christian | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 NORL 23 | Promising young rookie brings power, explosive playmaking ability to the backfield. |
| 46 | Prentice, Adam (FB) | 6-0 | 245 | 3 | South Carolina | 11/2/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA DEN 21 | Powerful vet makes his living as a lead blocker in short-yardage, goal-line packages. |
| 30 | Williams, Jamaal | 6-0 | 224 | 7 | Brigham Young | 17/9 | UFA,DET 23 | D4 GB 17 | Former Packers and Lions veteran will assume lead-back role if Kamara is sidelined. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **4** | **Carr, Derek** | **6-3** | **215** | **10** | **Fresno State** | **15/15/0/2** | **FA 23** | **D2 OAK 14** | **Heralded free agent stabilizes the position for first time since Drew Brees retired.** |
| 14 | Haener, Jake | 6-1 | 200 | R | Fresno State | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 NORL 23 | Promising rookie is a Drew Brees play-alike who will be groomed behind Derek Carr. |
| 2 | Winston, Jameis | 6-4 | 231 | 9 | Florida State | 3/3/12/2 | FA 20 | D1 TB 15 | Former starter boasts experience, playmaking ability at backup position behind Carr. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **90** | **Bresee, Bryan (T)** | **6-5** | **305** | **R** | **Clemson** | **0/0** | **D1 23** | **D1 NORL 23** | **Rookie three-technique will upgrade the team's pass rush with his interior power.** |
| 55 | Foskey, Isaiah (E) | 6-5 | 265 | R | Notre Dame | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 NORL 23 | Second-round pick should figure into the rotation with his high motor off the edge. |
| **96** | **Granderson, Carl (E)** | **6-5** | **261** | **5** | **Wyoming** | **16/4/0/1** | **CFA 19** | **CFA NORL 19** | **Athletic edge rusher is one of the most underrated and improved players on the team.** |
| **94** | **Jordan, Cameron (E)** | **6-4** | **287** | **13** | **California** | **16/16/0/1** | **D1 11** | **D1 NORL 11** | **Future Hall of Famer continues to defy age; plays at high level as he enters Year 13.** |
| 92 | Kpassagnon, Tanoh (E) | 6-7 | 289 | 7 | Villanova | 15/5/0/2 | UFA,KC 21 | D2 KC 17 | Savvy vet doesn't make many plays, but provides experienced depth at both end spots. |
| 97 | Roach, Malcolm (T) | 6-3 | 290 | 4 | Texas | 13/3/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA NORL 20 | Former undrafted free agent makes plays with his non-stop motor, athleticism inside. |
| 99 | Saunders, Khalen (T) | 6-0 | 324 | 5 | Western Illinois | 16/0/0/1 | UFA,KC 23 | D3 KC 19 | Former Chiefs reserve will compete with Shepherd for a starting spot next to Bresee. |
| **93** | **Shepherd, Nathan (T)** | **6-4** | **315** | **6** | **Fort Hays State** | **17/3** | **UFA,NYJ 23** | **D3 NYJ 18** | **Massive vet was signed in free agency to bolster team's disappointing run defense.** |
| 98 | Turner, Payton (E) | 6-6 | 270 | 3 | Houston | 8/0/0/9 | D1 21 | D1 NORL 21 | Former first-rounder needs to show he can stay healthy, make plays in his third year. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 53 | *Baun, Zack (O) | 6-3 | 225 | 4 | Wisconsin | 13/1/0/0 | D3 20 | D3 NORL 20 | Former third-round pick is a top athlete who has yet to find his niche at linebacker. |
| 43 | Connelly, Ryan (O) | 6-2 | 234 | 4 | Wisconsin | 1/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D5 NYG 19 | Journeyman can play multiple spots on the second level and has good size, instincts. |
| **56** | **Davis, Demario (M)** | **6-2** | **248** | **12** | **Arkansas State** | **17/17** | **FA NYJ 18** | **D3 NYJ 12** | **Veteran team captain is one of the league's best all-around playmaking linebackers.** |
| 50 | Dowell, Andrew (O) | 6-1 | 225 | 3 | Michigan State | 17/0 | FA 23 | CFA DALL 19 | Instinctive and speedy; he has earned a roster spot with excellent special-teams play. |
| 52 | *Jackson, D'Marco (M) | 6-1 | 233 | 2 | Appalachian State | 0/0/0/0 | D5 22 | D5 NORL 22 | Former fifth-round pick backs up Davis inside and plays with instincts and smarts. |
| 42 | Summers, Ty (O) | 6-1 | 241 | 5 | Texas Christian | 6/0/0/0 | FA 22 | D7 GB 19 | Fundamentally sound journeyman will play primarily on the weak side. |
| **20** | **Werner, Pete (O)** | **6-3** | **242** | **3** | **Ohio State** | **12/11/0/5** | **D2 21** | **D2 NORL 21** | **Third-year playmaker doesn't excel in any single area, but is solid in all phases.** |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | Abram, Johnathan (S) | 6-0 | 205 | 5 | Mississippi State | 15/8/0/1 | UFA,SEA 23 | D1 OAK 19 | Former Raiders first-round pick will try to resurrect his career as a veteran backup. |
| **29** | **Adebo, Paulson (CB)** | **6-1** | **192** | **3** | **Stanford** | **13/12/0/4** | **D3 21** | **D3 NORL 21** | **Needs to make more plays in Year 3 to hold down his starting spot on the left side.** |
| 0 | Amadi, Ugo (S) | 5-9 | 201 | 5 | Oregon | 3/0/0/5 | FA 23 | D4 SEA 19 | Undersized defender will need to shine on special teams to make the final roster. |
| 48 | Gray, J.T. (S) | 6-0 | 202 | 6 | Mississippi State | 14/0/0/3 | FA 19 | CFA NORL 18 | Former undrafted rookie makes his living on special teams, where he's a team captain. |
| 31 | Howden, Jordan (S) | 6-0 | 209 | R | Minnesota | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 NORL 23 | Rangy rookie will need to make his mark on special teams to earn early playing time. |
| 28 | Johnson Jr., Lonnie (S) | 6-2 | 213 | 5 | Kentucky | 12/0/0/1 | UFA,TENN 23 | D2 HOUS 19 | Versatile vet will try to man the hybrid role P.J. Williams played in recent seasons. |
| **23** | **Lattimore, Marshon (CB)** | **6-0** | **192** | **7** | **Ohio State** | **7/7/0/10** | **D1 17** | **D1 NORL 17** | **Former Pro Bowler remains one of the league's elite shutdown corners when healthy.** |
| **32** | **Mathieu, Tyrann (S)** | **5-9** | **190** | **11** | **Louisiana State** | **17/17** | **FA 22** | **D3 ARIZ 13** | **Undersized veteran makes plays all over the field with his instincts, intelligence.** |
| **6** | **Maye, Marcus (S)** | **6-0** | **207** | **7** | **Florida** | **10/10/0/7** | **UFA,NYJ 22** | **D2 NYJ 17** | **Veteran playmaker is looking to bounce back after injuries derailed his 2022 season.** |
| 38 | *Monday, Smoke (S) | 6-3 | 199 | 2 | Auburn | 0/0/0/0 | CFA 22 | CFA NORL 22 | Athletic young safety showed talent last year before suffering season-ending injury. |
| 21 | Roby, Bradley (CB) | 5-11 | 194 | 10 | Ohio State | 13/10/0/0 | T,HOUS 21 | D1 DEN 14 | Reliable veteran doesn't make many big plays, but also doesn't make many mistakes. |
| **1** | **Taylor, Alontae (CB)** | **6-1** | **199** | **2** | **Tennessee** | **13/9/0/0** | **D2 22** | **D2 NORL 22** | **Promising young athlete should challenge for a starting spot in his second season.** |
| 27 | Yiadom, Isaac (CB) | 6-1 | 188 | 6 | Boston College | 9/0/0/6 | FA 22 | D3 DEN 18 | Journeyman cornerback will need a strong performance in camp to earn a roster spot. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Gillikin, Blake (P) | 6-2 | 196 | 4 | Penn State | 17/0 | FA 23 | CFA NORL 20 | Third-year veteran has a powerful right leg, but he was too inconsistent last season. |
| 3 | Lutz, Wil (K) | 5-11 | 184 | 7 | Georgia State | 17/0 | FA 16 | CFA BLT 16 | Former Pro Bowler had his worst statistical season and needs to regain his confidence. |
| 49 | Wood, Zach (LS) | 6-3 | 255 | 7 | Southern Methodist | 17/0 | FA 17 | CFA DALL 16 | Veteran long snapper has been a model of consistency in his first six seasons. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; TFA=Transition free agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Kawaan Baker (1, South Alabama), Sy Barnett (Davenport), Shaq Davis (South Carolina State), Malik Flowers (Montana); TEs Miller Forristall (1, Alabama), Lucas Krull (1, Pittsburgh), Joel Wilson (Central Michigan); T Prince Emili (1, Pennsylvania); G Koda Martin (2, Syracuse); OL Mark Evans II (Arkansas-Pine Bluff), Alex Pihlstrom (Illinois); RB SaRodorick Thompson Jr. (Texas Tech); DE Jabari Zuniga (2, Florida); DL Jerron Cage (Ohio State); LBs Nick Anderson (Tulane), Anfernee Orji (Vanderbilt), Nephi Sewell (1, Utah); CBs Vincent Gray (1, Michigan), Troy Pride Jr. (3, Notre Dame); DB Anthony Johnson (Louisville); Ks Blake Grupe (Notre Dame), Alex Quevedo (Central Oklahoma); P Lou Hedley (Miami)



Chris Olave
Photo by Bob Donnan-USA TODAY Sports

similarly to Kamara and Williams. He runs with violence and passion.

RATING: 7.5

## RECEIVERS

Chris Olave fulfilled all expectations during a standout rookie season. A smooth route-runner, he separates from coverage with his sprinter's speed and precision cuts. Olave's slight build betrays him in battles for contested catches, but the Saints rarely use him in those situations. His polished skill set perfectly complements Thomas, who makes his living on slants, hitches and intermediate routes by using his strength and sure hands to physically overwhelm defenders. When healthy, he's a go-to target on third down and in the red zone. Rashid Shaheed burst on the scene as a rookie and immediately injected juice into the stagnant offense. He can take the lid off the defense with his sprinter's speed and is also a big-play threat on jet sweeps.

Tre'Quan Smith is valued for his versatility and blocking ability in the running game. Veteran free-agent signee Bryan Edwards and rookie A.T. Perry provide insurance in case Thomas falls victim to injury. The staff is excited about tight end Juwan Johnson, who enjoyed a breakout season in his third season after converting from wide receiver.

RATING:7

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Once a strength, the veteran line has struggled for two consecutive seasons because of injuries and inconsistency. A return to health should help the unit's performance. Massive 6-foot-7 Trevor Penning is a road-grader in the run game, who finishes blocks with a take-no-prisoners attitude. He's a work in progress in pass protection, and enemy pass rushers will test him early and often. Right tackle Ryan Ramczyk remains the anchor of the group and will try to regain his All-Pro form after battling injuries. Erik McCoy is steady and reliable at center. He's an athletic force on pulls and

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

**KEY ADDITION:**
**QB Derek Carr**

The four-time Pro Bowler should stabilize the position for the first time since Drew Brees retired in 2020. Carr's ability to operate the offense and limit mistakes will be critical to the Saints' success.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**
S Johnathan Abram, S Ugo Amadi, WR Bryan Edwards, S Lonnie Johnson Jr., T Storm Norton, DT Khalen Saunders, DT Nathan Shepherd, RB Jamaal Williams

**KEY LOSS:**
**DE Marcus Davenport (15/9)***
The former first-round draft pick was a lightning rod for fan criticism, but he was the team's most disruptive defensive lineman when healthy. His departure makes the Saints' pass rush an even bigger concern.

**OTHER LOSSES:**
WR Marquez Callaway (14/3), **QB Andy Dalton (14/14)**, S Justin Evans (15/4), **LB Kaden Elliss (17/11)**, T Ethan Greenidge (0/0), LB Chase Hansen (11/1), CB Chris Harris Jr. (10/4), WR/RS Deonte Harty (4/0), DT Albert Huggins (0/0), RB Mark Ingram II (10/3), RB David Johnson (5/0), WR Jarvis Landry (9/3), **DT David Onyemata (17/17)**, S Daniel Sorensen (17/2), DT Kentavius Street (17/0), **TE Adam Trautman (15/12), DT Shy Tuttle (17/14)**, RB Dwayne Washington (12/0), CB P.J. Williams (11/3)
**Total games played/started lost: 230/100**

**STARTERS RETURNING**
16: 9 offense, 7 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS

CAMERON JORDAN

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Andy Dalton | 378 | 252 | 2871 | 18 | 9 |
| Jameis Winston | 115 | 73 | 858 | 4 | 5 |
| **Rushing** | **Att** | **Yds** | **Avg** | **TD** | |
| Alvin Kamara | 223 | 897 | 4.0 | 2 | |
| Taysom Hill | 96 | 575 | 6.0 | 7 | |
| Mark Ingram | 62 | 233 | 3.8 | 1 | |
| **Receiving** | **Rec** | **Yds** | **Avg** | **TD** | |
| Chris Olave | 72 | 1042 | 14.5 | 4 | |
| Juwan Johnson | 42 | 508 | 12.1 | 7 | |
| Alvin Kamara | 57 | 490 | 8.6 | 2 | |
| Rashid Shaheed | 28 | 488 | 17.4 | 2 | |

**Kicking:** Lutz 33/33 XPs, 23/31 FGs, 102 points
**Tackles:** Davis 109, Mathieu 91, Werner 79
**Sacks:** Jordan 8.5, Ellis 7, Davis 6.5
**INTs:** Mathieu 3, Sorensen 2, Davis 1, Lattimore 1

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 333.8 | 19 |
| Passing Offense | 217.2 | 16 |
| Rushing Offense | 116.6 | 19 |
| Points | 19.4 | 22 |
| Sacked | 38 | T-13 |
| 3rd Down % | 40.2 | 15 |
| **Defense** | | |
| Total Defense | 314.8 | 5 |
| Passing Defense | 184.4 | 2 |
| Rushing Defense | 130.5 | 24 |
| Points Allowed | 20.3 | 9 |
| INTs | 7 | 30 |
| Sacks | 48 | T-5 |
| Turnover Diff. | -11 | 31 |

screens. Guards Cesar Ruiz and Andrus Peat are in the final years of their respective contracts and need big years to maintain their status on the roster. The athletic Ruiz is coming off his best season. Versatile veteran James Hurst provides reliable depth in the reserve unit.

**RATING: 7.5**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Once the strength of the defense, the front four has undergone extensive change because of free-agency departures. Run stuffers Nathan Shepherd and Khalen Saunders were added to bolster the team's disappointing run defense. They have the size and power to anchor the interior and keep opposing linemen from reaching the second level. Rookie Bryan Bresee will start at the three-technique. His power and explosive first step should improve the interior pass rush, a weak spot in recent years.

Left end Cam Jordan continues to defy Father Time. At 34, he's lost a step as a pass rusher, but still makes plays with his power, effort and know-how. Carl Granderson is the favorite to replace Marcus Davenport at right end. A former undrafted free agent, Granderson has gained strength and weight and developed into a solid every-down starter. Former first-round pick Payton Turner is a skilled and slippery pass rusher when healthy. Rookie Isaiah Foskey is a solid run defender who plays with great effort.

**RATING: 7**

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. The Saints will dramatically improve their takeaway total of 14 from last season. New defensive coordinator Joe Woods made turnover production a priority throughout the offseason. Healthy seasons from Marshon Lattimore, Marcus Maye and Payton Turner will help the cause.

2. A bounce-back season for kicker Wil Lutz. The former Pro Bowler's 74.2 percent conversion rate and 60.7-yard kickoff average were career lows in 2022. His strong six-year track record should signal a rebound campaign.

3. More explosive plays out of the offense. Carr's strong, capable arm should open up the downfield passing game and also loosen defenses at the line of scrimmage for Alvin Kamara and Jamaal Williams in the running game. The Saints ranked at the bottom of the league in explosive plays a year ago, but that should change this season.

## LINEBACKERS

Veteran Demario Davis earned a long overdue Pro-Bowl invitation in his 11th season. The powerful 6-foot-2, 248-pound defensive captain makes plays sideline to sideline against the run and has developed into an excellent blitzer in pressure packages. Pete Werner improved dramatically in his second season. He plays with effort and instincts. Depth is a question mark.

**RATING: 7.5**

## SECONDARY

A puzzling lack of interceptions is the only thing preventing this unit from ranking at the top of the league. There's talent, depth and a perfect blend of youth and experience. Cornerbacks Marshon Lattimore, Paulson Adebo and Alontae Taylor are interchangeable on the perimeter. All have the size, speed and confidence to thrive in Allen's aggressive coverage scheme. Lattimore is a shutdown cover man when focused, but tends to play to the level of the competition and can be maddingly inconsistent.

Safeties Tyrann Mathieu and Marcus Maye are steady if not spectacular. The 30-year-old Mathieu compensates for his lack of size and speed with superior instincts and play-making ability. Maye showed promise before injuries derailed his season. Taylor and veteran Bradley Roby will compete for the starting nickel spot. Veterans Lonnie Johnson and Jonathan Abram provide quality depth.

**RATING: 8**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Across the board, the kicking and return games will be looking for improvement after a subpar 2022 campaign. Former Pro-Bowl kicker Wil Lutz converted a career-low 23 of 31 field-goal attempts and lacked depth on kickoffs. He needs a bounce-back season to restore confidence. Punter Blake Gillikin is solid but slightly regressed from his standout rookie campaign. Shaheed is a dangerous return threat because of his elite speed. Coverage units, led by All-Pro J.T. Gray and Andrew Dowell, are outstanding. Veteran long snapper Zach Wood is steady and reliable.

**RATING: 6.5**

## INTANGIBLES

Allen and general manager Mickey Loomis spent the offseason making over the roster and coaching staff in Allen's image. Coaches and players who weren't on board with the program have been weeded out. This is clearly Allen's team now. The optimism built from a three-game winning streak down the stretch of last season carried over to the offseason with the signing of Carr. Allen appears to have steadied the ship and restored confidence after a rocky start to his tenure.

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Jeff Duncan

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 7-10**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | at Atlanta | 27-26 |
| Sept. 18 | TAMPA BAY | 10-20 |
| Sept. 25 | at Carolina | 14-22 |
| Oct. 2 | MINNESOTA | 25-28 |
| Oct. 9 | SEATTLE | 39-32 |
| Oct. 16 | CINCINNATI | 26-30 |
| Oct. 20 | at Arizona | 34-42 |
| Oct. 30 | LAS VEGAS | 24-0 |
| Nov. 7 | BALTIMORE | 13-27 |
| Nov. 13 | at Pittsburgh | 10-20 |
| Nov. 20 | L.A. RAMS | 27-20 |
| Nov. 27 | at San Francisco | 0-13 |
| Dec. 5 | at Tampa Bay | 16-17 |
| Dec. 18 | ATLANTA | 21-18 |
| Dec. 24 | at Cleveland | 17-10 |
| Jan. 1 | at Philadelphia | 20-10 |
| Jan. 8 | CAROLINA | 7-10 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Central**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | KANSAS CITY | TBD |
| Aug. 20 | at L.A. Chargers (Sun) | 6:05 |
| Aug. 27 | HOUSTON (Sun) | 7:00 |
| | | |
| Sept. 10 | TENNESSEE | 12:00 |
| Sept. 18 | at Carolina (Mon) | 6:15 |
| Sept. 24 | at Green Bay | 12:00 |
| Oct. 1 | TAMPA BAY | 12:00 |
| Oct. 8 | at New England | 12:00 |
| Oct. 15 | at Houston | 12:00 |
| Oct. 19 | JACKSONVILLE (Thu) | 7:15 |
| Oct. 29 | at Indianapolis | 12:00 |
| Nov. 5 | CHICAGO | 12:00 |
| Nov. 12 | at Minnesota | 12:00 |
| | BYE | |
| Nov. 26 | at Atlanta | 12:00 |
| Dec. 3 | DETROIT | 12:00 |
| Dec. 10 | CAROLINA | 12:00 |
| Dec. 17 | N.Y. GIANTS | 12:00 |
| Dec. 21 | at L.A. Rams (Thu) | 7:15 |
| Dec. 31 | at Tampa Bay | 12:00 |
| TBD | ATLANTA | TBD |

# TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

## Super Bowl Seems Like a Long Time Ago

Life without Tom Brady has transformed general manager Jason Licht into a tightrope walker, trying to remain competitive in a weak division while focusing on long-term success.

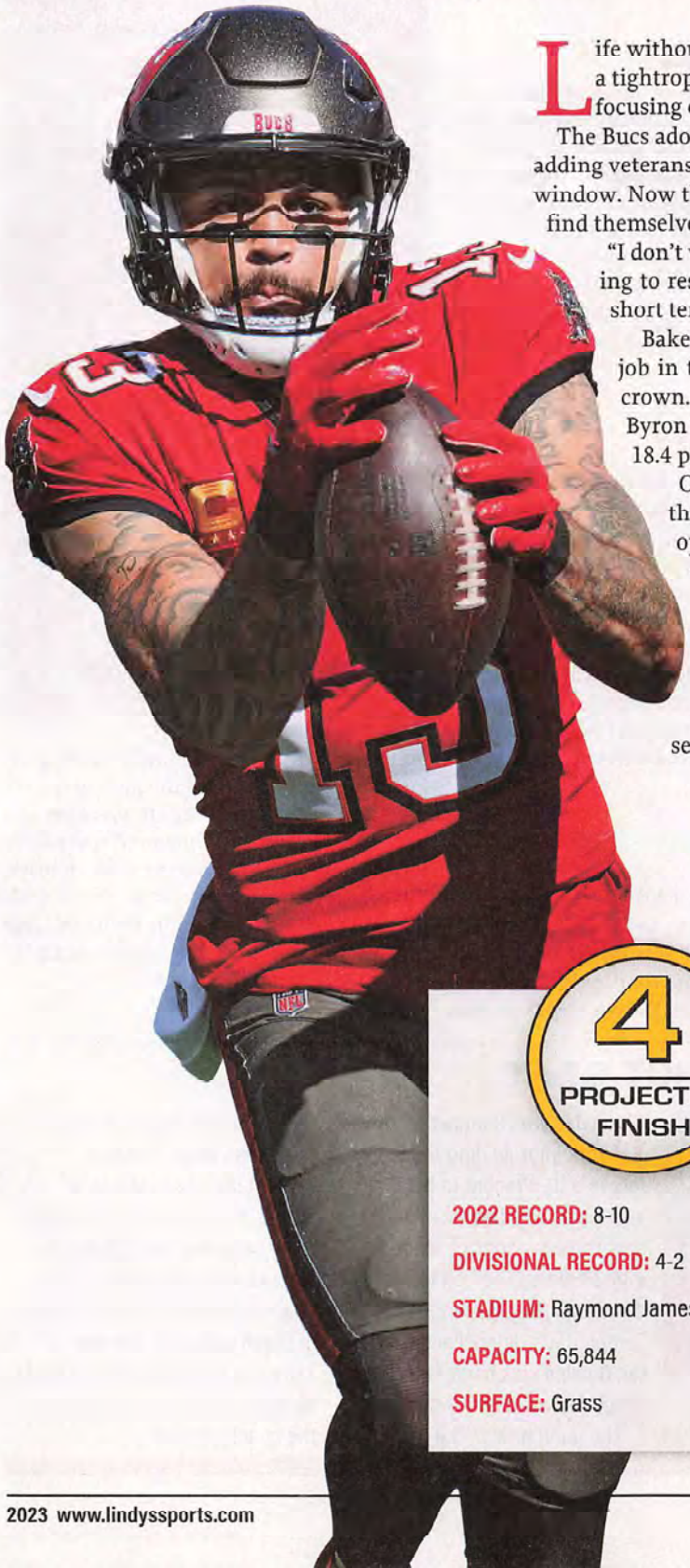
The Bucs adopted an all-in approach during Brady's three years under center, adding veterans and pushing money forward in an attempt to maximize a short window. Now that Brady is working on his tan rather than his timing, the Bucs find themselves in reset mode.

"I don't want to say we're taking a step back," Licht says. "We're still trying to restock and eventually build another championship team. In the short term, we still want to win this division – and we think we can."

Baker Mayfield and Kyle Trask will compete for the No. 1 quarterback job in training camp as the Bucs seek a third consecutive NFC South crown. Former Seattle assistant coach Dave Canales replaces embattled Byron Leftwich as offensive coordinator after the Bucs averaged only 18.4 points per game while finishing 8-9.

Ownership is sticking with Todd Bowles as head coach, despite the losing record and an embarrassing home loss to Dallas in the opening playoff round. Bowles is relieved that two key veterans — linebacker Lavonte David and cornerback Jamel Dean — returned instead of leaving as free agents.

Just two years removed from returning all 22 starters off a championship team, this roster has been overhauled. Prominent contributors like left tackle Donovan Smith and running back Leonard Fournette were released as Tampa Bay seeks a younger, faster roster.



**Mike Evans**
Photo by Joe Robbins

**4**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 8-10

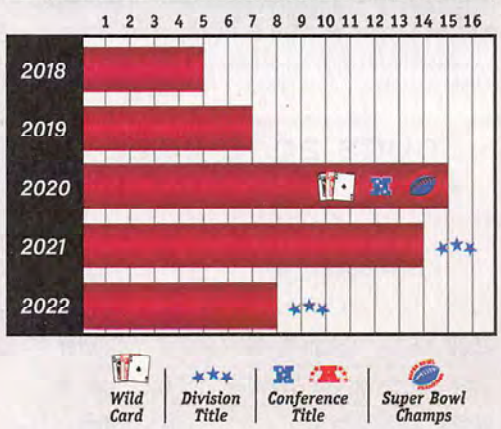
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 4-2

**STADIUM:** Raymond James Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 65,844

**SURFACE:** Grass

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

**ADVENTHEALTH TRAINING CENTER**
**ONE BUCCANEER PLACE**
**TAMPA, FL 33607**
**(813) 870-2700**
**WWW.BUCCANEERS.COM**

**TRAINING CAMP:** AdventHealth Training Center; Tampa, FL
**HEAD COACH:** Todd Bowles
- 2nd season with Buccaneers
- 8-10 overall; 0-1 postseason
- 6th season as NFL head coach
- 32-50 overall; 0-1 postseason

**OWNERS/CO-CHAIRMEN:** Bryan Glazer, Joel Glazer, Ed Glazer
**OWNER/PRESIDENT BUCCANEERS/GLAZER FAMILY FOUNDATION:** Darcie Glazer Kassewitz
**OWNERS:** Avram Glazer, Kevin Glazer
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Jason Licht
**SR. ADVISTOR TO GM:** Bruce Arians
**VP/PLAYER PERSONNEL:** John Spytek
**DIRECTORS PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Mike Biehl, Rob McCartney

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dave Canales | Offensive coordinator | 14 | 1 |
| Tom Moore | Assistant | 44 | 4 |
| Davi Raih | Sr. offensive analyst | 8 | 1 |
| Harold Goodwin | *Run game coordinator | 19 | 5 |
| Thaddeus Lewis | Quarterbacks | 3 | 3 |
| Jordan Somerville | Asst. quarterbacks | 1 | 1 |
| Joe Gilbert | Offensive line | 11 | 5 |
| Skip Peete | Running backs | 25 | 1 |
| Brad Idzik | Receivers | 5 | 1 |
| John Van Dam | Tight ends | 5 | 5 |
| Jeff Kastl | Off. quality control | 2 | 2 |
| Kacy Rodgers | @Defensive line | 21 | 5 |
| George Edwards | Outside linebackers | 26 | 1 |
| Larry Foote | #Inside linebackers | 9 | 5 |
| Nick Rapone | Safeties | 10 | 5 |
| Kevin Ross | Cornerbacks | 17 | 5 |
| Tim Atkins | Asst. defensive backs | 14 | 5 |
| Joey Fitzgerald | Def. quality control | 2 | 2 |
| Rashad Johnson | Defensive assistant | 1 | 1 |
| Keith Armstrong | Special teams coord. | 30 | 5 |
| Keith Tandy | Def./special teams asst. | 4 | 4 |
| Anthony Piroli | Head S&C | 4 | 5 |
| Chad Wade | Assistant S&C | 10 | 10 |
| Cory Bichey | Assistant S&C | 4 | 4 |
| Deandre Ward | Assistant S&C | 2 | 2 |
| Maral Javadifar | Dir. rehab/performance | 5 | 5 |

* Assistant head coach @ Defense run game coord.
# Defense pass game coordinator

## BUCS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 2/33 | Logan Hall | DE | Backup |
| 2021 | 1/32 | Joe Tryon-Shoyinka | LB | Starter |
| 2020 | 1/13 | Tristan Wirfs | T | Starter |
| 2019 | 1/5 | Devin White | LB | Starter |
| 2018 | 1/12 | Vita Vea | DT | Starter |

## COACHING

Going back to his final three years as head coach of the Jets, Bowles has suffered through four consecutive losing seasons. Because he wasn't promoted to succeed Bruce Arians until late March of 2022, Bowles was unable to select his own coaching staff. Bowles would prefer a more balanced offense, so Canales is determined to energize a ground game that averaged an NFL-low 3.4 yards per carry.

**RATING: 7**

## QUARTERBACKS

Following Brady is no easy task and Mayfield and Trask have a lot to prove. This may be Mayfield's final chance to establish himself as a starter and he sees Tampa Bay as a huge opportunity after stops with the Browns, Panthers and Rams. The No. 1 overall pick in the 2018 draft will go to camp as the favorite against Trask, who has thrown only nine passes since the Bucs selected him out of Florida in 2021 with the last choice of the second round.

**RATING: 7**

## RUNNING BACKS

For much of last season, rookie Rachaad White split carries with Fournette. White figures to be the primary back this fall, but he needs to show more patience in setting up his blocks and making defenders miss. He caught 50 of the 58 passes Brady sent his way, but averaged only 5.8 yards per reception. Ke'Shawn Vaughn, a third-round pick in 2020, had a mere 17 rushing attempts and the Bucs added veteran Chase Edmonds, who enjoyed some productive years with the Cardinals.

**RATING: 6.5**

## RECEIVERS

Mike Evans and Chris Godwin remain a powerful tandem. Evans extended his streak of 1,000-yard seasons to nine years but reached the end zone only six times after catching 27 touchdown passes in the previous two years combined. Coming off knee surgery, Godwin led the Bucs in targets (142) and receptions (104). He averaged less than 10 yards per catch, however, well off his career mark of 12.7. Hampered by injuries, Russell Gage ranked second to Evans with five touchdown catches while tight end Cade Otton earned Brady's confidence with 42 receptions as a rookie.

**RATING: 8**

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

A team in search of a new identity, the 2023 Tampa Bay season could feel like an experiment, as they figure out which players factor into the long-term plans. One rising prospect would appear to be RB **Rachaad White**, who demonstrated the ability to gain the tough, hard-nosed yards, in addition to being a smooth pass-catcher, while holding up well in pass protection. There is really no cap to what his usage might be. ... The Buccaneers were ecstatic with the dividends from sixth-round pick, TE **Ko Kieft**. The Minnesota product brought a blue-collar mentality that rubbed off in the locker room. His performance didn't always show up in the stat box, but Kieft was responsible for some big plays due to his menacing blocks while lining up in-line and in the backfield at fullback. This is a player that the organization should never let walk out the door. ... A first-round pick in 2021, OLB **Joe Tryon-Shoyinka** showed signs of improvement in Year 2, but head coach Todd Bowles has stated that there is huge room for improvement in his overall game. If Tryon-Shoyinka can learn to convert his speed to power, he could finally be primed for a breakout campaign.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

**TODD BOWLES**

Bowles was the toast of New York after leading the 2015 Jets to a 10-6 record in his first year as an NFL head coach. The next three seasons produced a 14-34 record that led to his dismissal. After three years as Tampa Bay's defensive coordinator, Bowles was hand-selected by Bruce Arians to be his successor.

The good news? The Bucs won the NFC South again. The bad news was Brady suffered his first losing season as a starter. Bowles vows he will be more assertive in 2023 and he wasted no time entrusting his offense to Dave Canales instead of Byron Leftwich. If things go awry this fall, ownership is likely to jettison Bowles and replace the coaching staff.

Vita Vea
Photo by AP Photo/???

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Bucs once enjoyed continuity up front, but those days are long gone. In their place are uncertainty and some wide-open training camp battles. Smith's departure after eight years at left tackle will be filled by standout Tristan Wirfs, who shifts to the blind side. Luke Goedeke is the favorite to win the right-tackle job. Following knee surgery, Ryan Jensen returned at center in the playoffs and the Bucs need his leadership to anchor a young line. The trade of Shaq Mason creates openings at both guard spots. Second-round pick Cody Mauch competes against newcomer Matt Feiler, Robert Hainsey, Nick Leverett and Aaron Stinnie.

**RATING: 6.5**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Vita Vea will have to shoulder more of the load up front following the departures of Will Gholston, Akiem Hicks and Rakeem Nunez-Roches. Despite missing three games, Vea led the Bucs with 6.5 sacks and he anchors a run defense that has been slipping the past few years. Top draft pick Calijah Kancey, a disruptive defensive tackle with a quick first step, should be an immediate contributor. The Bucs are counting on last year's top draft pick, Logan Hall, to emerge after struggling as a rookie. To help fortify the interior, Tampa Bay signed Greg Gaines, Vea's former college teammate at the University of Washington. A two-year starter, Gaines posted 4.5 sacks and 13 QB hits for the 2021 champion Rams.

**RATING: 6.5**

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

### KEY ADDITION:

**QB Baker Mayfield**
Mayfield was once considered a young quarterback on the rise. Injuries slowed his progress and he has bounced around the league. If Mayfield can't beat out Trask, his future as an NFL starter would look bleak.

### OTHER ADDITIONS:

RB Chase Edmonds, G Matt Feiler, DT Greg Gaines, K Chase McLaughlin, S Ryan Neal

### KEY LOSS:

**QB Tom Brady (17/17)***
The Bucs had experienced a 12-year playoff drought until Brady arrived in 2020 and promptly led them to a Super Bowl title. While Brady has seven championship rings, Mayfield and Trask have one playoff win between them.

### OTHER LOSSES:

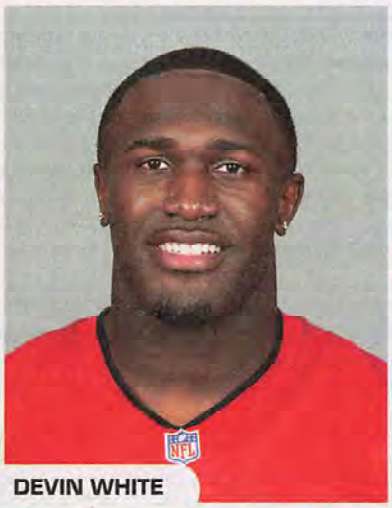
LB Genard Avery (9/0), RB Gio Bernard (8/0), TE Cameron Brate (11/1), **S Mike Edwards (13/12), RB Leonard Fournette (16/9)**, QB Blaine Gabbert (1/0), **DE William Gholston (17/9), DT Akiem Hicks (11/11)**, WR Julio Jones (10/5), **G Shaq Mason (17/17)**, WR Scotty Miller (15/1), CB Sean Murphy-Bunting (12/5), LB Carl Nassib (13/1), S Keanu Neal (17/8), **DL Rakeem Nunez-Roches (17/10)**, WR Breshad Perriman (11/3), TE Kyle Rudolph (9/0), S Logan Ryan (9/6), **T Donovan Smith (13/13)**, K Ryan Succop (17/0), T Josh Wells (11/7)
**Total games played/started lost: 274/135**

### STARTERS RETURNING

14: 7 offense, 7 defense, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS



DEVIN WHITE

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tom Brady | 733 | 490 | 4694 | 25 | 9 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leonard Fournette | 189 | 668 | 3.5 | 3 |
| Rachaad White | 129 | 481 | 3.7 | 1 |

| Receiving | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mike Evans | 77 | 1124 | 14.6 | 6 |
| Chris Godwin | 104 | 1023 | 9.8 | 3 |
| Leonard Fournette | 73 | 523 | 7.2 | 3 |
| Russell Gage | 51 | 426 | 8.4 | 5 |

**Kicking**: Succop 24/25 XPs, 31/38 FGs, 117 points
**Tackles**: White 124, David 123, Edwards 82
**Sacks**: Vea 6.5, White 5.5, Nelson 5.5
**INTs**: Murphy-Bunting 2, Edwards 2, Dean 2

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 346.7 | 15 |
| Passing Offense | 269.8 | 2 |
| Rushing Offense | 76.9 | 32 |
| Points | 18.4 | 25 |
| Sacked | 22 | 1 |
| 3rd Down % | 37.4 | 21 |
| **Defense** | | |
| Total Defense | 324.3 | T-9 |
| Passing Defense | 203.6 | 9 |
| Rushing Defense | 120.7 | 15 |
| Points Allowed | 21.1 | T-13 |
| INTs | 10 | T-24 |
| Sacks | 45 | T-7 |
| Turnover Diff. | -2 | T-20 |

# BUCCANEERS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 87 | Durham, Payne (TE) | 6-6 | 253 | R | Purdue | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 TB 23 | Lanky TE who could emerge as red-zone target and short-yardage blocker as a rookie. |
| 13 | Evans, Mike | 6-5 | 231 | 10 | Texas A&M | 15/15/0/1 | D1 14 | D1 TB 14 | Rapport with Brady was off in 2022, but veteran WR put up another 1,000-yard season. |
| 3 | Gage Jr., Russell | 6-0 | 185 | 6 | Louisiana State | 13/4/0/4 | UFA,ATL 22 | D6 ATL 18 | Started to find the end zone toward the end of the year, but injuries were a concern. |
| 14 | Godwin, Chris | 6-1 | 208 | 7 | Penn State | 15/13/0/2 | D3 17 | D3 TB 17 | Came back strong from ACL-MCL surgery and figures to be completely healthy this fall. |
| 41 | Kieft, Ko (TE) | 6-5 | 265 | 2 | Minnesota | 17/12 | D6 22 | D6 TB 22 | Rookie displayed nastiness as blocking TE, but has limited use as a downfield target. |
| 88 | Otton, Cade (TE) | 6-5 | 247 | 2 | Washington | 16/11/0/1 | D4 22 | D4 TB 22 | Started 11 games as a rookie TE, catching 65 percent of passes Brady sent his way. |
| 10 | Palmer, Trey | 6-0 | 192 | R | Nebraska | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 TB 23 | Bucs traded up in sixth round to grab this 4.3 speedster who flashes return skills. |
| 83 | Thompkins, Deven | 5-8 | 155 | 2 | Utah State | 5/1/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA TB 22 | Signed as an undrafted FA and spent most of his rookie year on the practice squad. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 71 | Feiler, Matt (LG) | 6-6 | 330 | 7 | Bloomsburg | 17/17 | FA 23 | CFA HOUS 14 | Hulking veteran who has started at both tackle and guard during his six NFL seasons. |
| 67 | Goedeke, Luke (RT) | 6-5 | 312 | 2 | Central Michigan | 11/8/2/4 | D2 22 | D2 TB 22 | Second-round pick started eight games as a rookie; will compete at tackle in 2023. |
| 70 | Hainsey, Robert (T) | 6-4 | 306 | 3 | Notre Dame | 17/17 | D3 21 | D3 TB 21 | Former college RT started all 17 games at center once Jensen was injured in camp. |
| 66 | Jensen, Ryan (C) | 6-4 | 319 | 10 | Colorado State-Pueblo | 0/0/0/0 | UFA,BLT 18 | D6 BLT 13 | Expected to return at center after tearing up a knee on second day of training camp. |
| 60 | Leverett, Nick (G) | 6-4 | 310 | 3 | Rice | 11/10/6/0 | FA 21 | CFA TB 20 | Starter at LG for final 10 games; then missed Dallas playoff matchup with knee injury. |
| 69 | Mauch, Cody (RG) | 6-5 | 302 | R | North Dakota State | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 TB 23 | Versatile mauler missing two front teeth; ticketed for starting guard spot. |
| 75 | Molchon, John (G) | 6-5 | 309 | 2 | Boise State | 1/0/8/1 | FA 22 | CFA TB 20 | Journeyman guard was promoted from the practice squad to play one game last season. |
| 77 | Skule, Justin (T) | 6-6 | 315 | 4 | Vanderbilt | 1/0/1/0 | FA 23 | D6 SF 19 | Former sixth-round pick started 12 games for SF before joining Bucs practice squad. |
| 64 | *Stinnie, Aaron (G) | 6-3 | 312 | 6 | James Madison | 0/0/0/0 | W,TENN 19 | CFA TENN 18 | Torn ACL wrecked his year, but started three games in 2020 championship season. |
| 73 | Walton, Brandon (T) | 6-5 | 300 | 2 | Florida Atlantic | 11/2/6/0 | FA 22 | CFA BUFF 20 | Former standout prep lineman from Clearwater; started two games at tackle in 2022. |
| 78 | Wirfs, Tristan (LT) | 6-5 | 320 | 4 | Iowa | 13/13/1/3 | D1 20 | D1 TB 20 | Established as one of the NFL premier tackles; could shift to the left side in 2023. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | Edmonds, Chase | 5-9 | 205 | 6 | Fordham | 13/3/0/0 | FA 23 | D4 ARIZ 18 | Averaged 4.7 yards per carry with Arizona before a lost season in Denver and Miami. |
| 43 | Laird, Patrick | 6-0 | 205 | 4 | California | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA MIA 19 | Started four games in three years with Dolphins before joining Bucs practice squad. |
| 21 | Vaughn, Ke'Shawn | 5-10 | 214 | 4 | Vanderbilt | 15/0/0/2 | D3 20 | D3 TB 20 | Former third-rounder has only 79 carries and 12 catches after three NFL seasons. |
| 1 | White, Rachaad | 6-0 | 214 | 2 | Arizona State | 17/8 | D3 22 | D3 TB 22 | Replaced Leonard Fournette as starter midway through rookie year; impressed coaches. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Mayfield, Baker | 6-1 | 215 | 6 | Oklahoma | 12/10/3/2 | UFA,LAR 23 | D1 CLV 18 | Once the No. 1 overall pick in the draft; determined to restart his career as a Buc. |
| 2 | Trask, Kyle | 6-5 | 236 | 3 | Florida | 1/0/1/15 | D2 21 | D2 TB 21 | Former second-rounder waited his turn behind Brady; will compete for starting job. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 96 | Gaines, Greg (E) | 6-1 | 312 | 5 | Washington | 16/12/0/1 | UFA,LAR 23 | D4 LAR 19 | Savvy free-agent pickup from Rams; could be moved from DT to end in 3-4 scheme. |
| 90 | Hall, Logan (E) | 6-6 | 283 | 2 | Houston | 17/0 | D2 22 | D2 TB 22 | Tampa Bay's top pick in 2022 draft struggled to make an impact along the front. |
| 94 | Kancey, Calijah (E) | 6-1 | 281 | R | Pittsburgh | 0/0 | D1 23 | D1 PITT 23 | Bucs scouts love his burst off the snap and knack for making stops in the backfield. |
| 79 | O'Connor, Patrick (E) | 6-4 | 270 | 5 | Eastern Michigan | 17/0 | FA 22 | D7 DET 17 | Former seventh-rounder by Lions has never started in his five-year career with Bucs. |
| 95 | Senat, Deadrin (T) | 6-1 | 305 | 6 | South Florida | 12/0/2/1 | FA 22 | D3 ATL 18 | Disappointment in Atlanta; this former third-rounder played 20 percent of Bucs snaps. |
| 50 | Vea, Vita (NT) | 6-4 | 347 | 6 | Washington | 14/14/0/3 | D1 18 | D1 TB 18 | Disruptive nose tackle led Bucs in sacks and almost always draws a double-team. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | *Barrett, Shaquil (O) | 6-2 | 250 | 9 | Colorado State | 8/8/0/0 | UFA,DEN 19 | CFA DEN 14 | Making a comeback from torn Achilles; he provides speed, guile off the left edge. |
| 52 | Britt, K.J. (I) | 6-0 | 235 | 3 | Auburn | 12/0/0/0 | D5 21 | D5 TB 21 | Fifth-round pick awaits first NFL start after two seasons with the Bucs. |
| 54 | David, Lavonte (I) | 6-1 | 233 | 12 | Nebraska | 17/17 | D2 12 | D2 TB 12 | The longest-tenured Buc returned for a 12th season instead of testing the FA market. |
| 8 | Dennis, SirVocea (I) | 6-0 | 226 | R | Pittsburgh | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 TB 23 | This speedy Butkus Award semifinalist figures to excel on special teams as a rookie. |
| 0 | Diaby, YaYa (O) | 6-3 | 263 | R | Louisville | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 TB 23 | Bucs scouts are intrigued by this powerful edge rusher who ran a 4.5 at the Combine. |
| 57 | Gilbert III, Ulysses (I) | 6-0 | 230 | 3 | Akron | 3/0/0/0 | FA 22 | D6 PITT 19 | Former Steelers sixth-round pick has seen his NFL career marred by back injuries. |
| 49 | *Gill, Cam (O) | 6-3 | 240 | 4 | Wagner | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA TB 20 | Placed on IR last summer after suffering a Lisfranc injury during preseason. |
| 98 | Nelson, Anthony (O) | 6-7 | 271 | 5 | Iowa | 17/8 | D4 19 | D4 TB 19 | Productive backup works the edges and displays a knack for bringing QBs down hard. |
| 33 | Ramirez, Jose (O) | 6-2 | 242 | R | Eastern Michigan | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 TB 23 | Bucs believe they landed a sixth-round steal by grabbing a productive edge rusher. |
| 51 | Russell, J.J. (O) | 6-1 | 225 | 2 | Memphis | 6/0/0/1 | FA 23 | CFA TB 22 | Spent much of season on practice squad, but played 26 snaps vs. the Ravens. |
| 9 | Tryon-Shoyinka, Joe (O) | 6-5 | 259 | 3 | Washington | 17/16 | D1 21 | D1 TB 21 | Bucs fans want to see more results off the edge from a former first-round pick. |
| 45 | White, Devin (I) | 6-0 | 237 | 5 | Louisiana State | 17/17 | D1 19 | D1 TB 19 | Speedy ILB didn't make friends in the building with reports he wants to be traded. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 37 | *Chesley, Anthony (CB) | 6-0 | 190 | 3 | Coastal Carolina | 7/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA CIN 19 | With his fourth organization; made two tackles in seven games with the Bucs in 2022. |
| 24 | Davis III, Carlton (CB) | 6-1 | 206 | 6 | Auburn | 13/13/0/4 | D2 18 | D2 TB 18 | High-priced corner who has only seven interceptions in 64 games with the Bucs. |
| 35 | Dean, Jamel (CB) | 6-1 | 206 | 5 | Auburn | 15/15/0/2 | D3 19 | D3 TB 19 | Cover skills made Dean a priority for the Bucs to avoid losing him in free agency. |
| 30 | Delaney, Dee (CB) | 5-11 | 200 | 3 | Miami | 17/1 | FA 21 | CFA IAX 18 | Backup corner who has picked off one pass in his 32-game career with the Bucs. |
| 32 | Hayes, Josh (S) | 5-11 | 197 | R | Kansas State | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 TB 23 | Made 71 stops, including 5.5 tackles for loss while starting 13 games as a Wildcat. |
| 27 | McCollum, Zyon (CB) | 6-2 | 199 | 2 | Sam Houston | 13/3/0/4 | D5 22 | D5 TB 22 | Fifth-round pick experienced an erratic rookie year at corner, but made three starts. |
| 23 | Neal, Ryan (S) | 6-3 | 200 | 4 | Southern Illinois | 14/9/0/3 | FA 23 | CFA PHA 18 | Broke through as starting safety for Seattle in 2022; playing 73% of the snaps. |
| 34 | Turner, Nolan (S) | 6-1 | 202 | 2 | Clemson | 5/0/0/2 | FA 23 | CFA TB 22 | Speedy safety spent the majority of his rookie season on Tampa Bay's practice squad. |
| 31 | Winfield Jr., Antoine (S) | 5-9 | 203 | 4 | Minnesota | 13/13/0/4 | D2 20 | D2 TB 20 | Dependable safety who is heading toward a long-term extension with the Bucs. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Camarda, Jake (P) | 6-1 | 193 | 2 | Georgia | 17/0 | D4 22 | D4 TB 22 | Lived up to his status as a fourth-round pick by averaging 48.9 yards on 79 punts. |
| 4 | McLaughlin, Chase (K) | 6-1 | 175 | 4 | Illinois | 16/0/0/0 | UFA,IND 23 | CFA BUFF 19 | Has strong leg from long distance; made nine FGs from the 50 or more with Colts. |
| 97 | Triner, Zach (LS) | 6-3 | 245 | 5 | Assumption | 17/0 | FA 22 | FA NYJ 17 | Found a home as a long snapper in Tampa since 2019 after stops with Jets and Packers. |
| 15 | Verity, Jake (K) | 6-2 | 197 | 1 | East Carolina | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA BLT 21 | Two years after overcoming a torn ACL, he'll go against McLaughlin for kicker job. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (I indicates player in previous NFL camp): WR Kaylon Geiger Sr. (I, Texas Tech); TEs Dominique Dafney (2, Indiana State), David Wells (3, San Diego State); Ts Dylan Cook (I, Montana), Grant Hermanns (I, Purdue); G/T Michael Niese (I, Temple); DE Willington Previlon (I, Rutgers); DT Mike Greene (I, James Madison); LBs Hamilcar Rashed Jr. (I, Oregon State), Charles Snowden (I, Virginia); CBs Don Gardner (I, South Dakota State), Duron Lowe (I, Liberty)

## LINEBACKERS

The Bucs didn't want to lose their longest-tenured player in free agency and Bowles was thrilled when the 33-year-old David returned on a one-year deal. Tampa Bay's defensive leader combines with Devin White to give the Bucs a formidable tandem at inside linebacker. White's rare speed at the position allows him to make plays all over the field, but he often struggles in coverage and needs to take better angles to the ball. He is disgruntled with his current contract, but White needs to show more discipline and hustle before Tampa Bay offers him a long-term extension.

Shaq Barrett suffered a torn Achilles in midseason and the Bucs need his pass-rushing prowess off the left edge. Entering his third pro season, former first-round pick Joe Tryon-Shoyinka is still looking to establish himself as a force off the right side. The Bucs made a smart move by re-signing Anthony Nelson, who has registered 10.5 sacks in the past two seasons, despite limited playing time. Rookies YaYa Diaby and SirVocea Dennis add depth and should impact special teams.

**RATING: 8**

## SECONDARY

The Bucs are expecting a lot of production from two high-priced corners. Carlton Davis signed a three-year, $45 million deal in 2022 and Dean was coaxed back to Tampa with a four-year agreement worth $52 million. Davis has only seven interceptions in five seasons and Bowles wants to see more takeaways. Sean Murphy-Bunting signed with Tennessee as a free agent and the Bucs are seeking a reliable slot corner. Bowles is confident second-year corner Zyon McCollum has a bright future and sixth-round pick Josh Hayes is a feisty corner out of Kansas State.

Antoine Winfield Jr. continues to shine and he'll return to a more traditional safety role after struggling a bit at nickel. Veterans Logan Ryan and Keanu Neal weren't re-signed and Mike Edwards moved on with the Chiefs, so Tampa Bay lured safety Ryan Neal as a free agent from Seattle, where he enjoyed a career year in 2022. In his first season as a starter, Neal was credited with 66 tackles and eight pass breakups.

**RATING: 7.5**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Ryan Succop was very reliable inside the 40, but Bowles wanted a stronger leg so the Bucs signed Chase McLaughlin, who has converted 13-of-16 field-goal attempts from 50 yards or more the past two seasons. Succop, only 2-for-7 on tries of at least 50 yards, was due to make $3.75 million and the cash-strapped Bucs pivoted to McLaughlin, who has kicked for six previous teams. Punter Jake Camarda proved to be a smart fourth-round pick out of Georgia. Camarda averaged almost 49 yards per punt and dropped 22 kicks inside the 20.

Wide receiver Deven Thompkins bounced between the practice squad and the active roster as an undrafted rookie and he'll have an opportunity to compete as a returner. He averaged 10.2 yards bringing back six punts and ripped off a 54-yard kickoff return at San Francisco, the longest by a Buccaneer in more than a decade. Zach Triner enters his fifth year as Tampa Bay's long snapper and special-teams coach Keith Armstrong has come to appreciate Triner's toughness and reliability.

**RATING: 7.5**

## INTANGIBLES

For the past three years, every player looked up to Brady as the unquestioned leader. He justified that status by guiding Tampa Bay to a championship in his first season with the Bucs, but now he's gone and the new face of this franchise is unclear. Brady infused his teammates with an unwavering belief that the Bucs would find a way to overcome adversity. Without Brady's presence and incomparable resume', a younger team will struggle to regain its swagger.

**RATING: Minus-1**

— Ira Kaufman

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. The Bucs made it far too easy on opposing defenses in 2022 as Tom Brady led the league in pass attempts. Todd Bowles and Dave Canales are resolved to restore balance and energize a listless ground game that finished last in carries, rushing yards and rushing touchdowns.

2. Logan Hall, the 33rd overall pick in last year's draft, played on only 36 percent of Tampa Bay's defensive snaps. Considering all of the departures on the line, Hall figures to see far more playing time. He registered only 2.5 sacks and 12 tackles, despite playing every game.

3. Should the Bucs appear to be destined for a lost season, don't be surprised if ownership signs off on a veteran purge. Even a star in his prime like Mike Evans might be considered expendable if a suitor is willing to part with valuable draft capital.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 8-10**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | at Dallas | 19-3 |
| Sept. 18 | at New Orleans | 20-10 |
| Sept. 25 | GREEN BAY | 12-14 |
| Oct. 2 | KANSAS CITY | 31-41 |
| Oct. 9 | ATLANTA | 21-15 |
| Oct. 16 | at Pittsburgh | 18-20 |
| Oct. 23 | at Carolina | 3-21 |
| Oct. 27 | BALTIMORE | 22-27 |
| Nov. 6 | L.A. RAMS | 16-13 |
| Nov. 13 | SEATTLE | 21-16 |
| Nov. 27 | at Cleveland (OT) | 17-23 |
| Dec. 5 | NEW ORLEANS | 17-16 |
| Dec. 11 | at San Francisco | 7-35 |
| Dec. 18 | CINCINNATI | 23-34 |
| Dec. 25 | at Arizona (OT) | 19-16 |
| Jan. 1 | CAROLINA | 30-24 |
| Jan. 8 | at Atlanta | 17-30 |
| Jan. 16 | DALLAS (Mon) | 14-31 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Eastern**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 11 | PITTSBURGH (Fri) | TBD |
| Aug. 17-21 | at N.Y. Jets | TBD |
| Aug. 26 | BALTIMORE (Sat) | TBD |
| Sept. 10 | at Minnesota | 1:00 |
| Sept. 17 | CHICAGO | 1:00 |
| Sept. 25 | PHILADELPHIA (Mon) | 7:15 |
| Oct. 1 | at New Orleans | 1:00 |
| | BYE | |
| Oct. 15 | DETROIT | 1:00 |
| Oct. 22 | ATLANTA | 1:00 |
| Oct. 26 | at Buffalo (Thu) | 8:15 |
| Nov. 5 | at Houston | 1:00 |
| Nov. 12 | TENNESSEE | 1:00 |
| Nov. 19 | at San Francisco | 4:05 |
| Nov. 26 | at Indianapolis | 1:00 |
| Dec. 3 | CAROLINA | 1:00 |
| Dec. 10 | at Atlanta | 1:00 |
| Dec. 17 | at Green Bay | 1:00 |
| Dec. 24 | JACKSONVILLE | 4:05 |
| Dec. 31 | NEW ORLEANS | 1:00 |
| TBD | at Carolina | TBD |

# Division Saw Quick Fall of the Rams

The fate of the 49ers depends on second-year quarterback Brock Purdy's elbow, which is not exactly how head coach Kyle Shanahan had the future mapped out. Raise your hand if you predicted a year ago that Geno Smith would be the best quarterback in the division going into the 2023 season.

## ARIZONA CARDINALS

Stop if you've heard this before: The Cardinals are starting over with a new general manager and head coach. The excitement of the Kliff Kingsbury-Kyler Murray Era fizzled quickly. Murray tore his ACL in mid-December, which puts his 2023 season in jeopardy, and Kingsbury was fired after compiling a 28-37-1 record with one playoff appearance in four years. New GM Monti Ossenfort, hired from the Titans, and new head coach Jonathan Gannon, the defensive coordinator of the NFC champion Eagles, will have to patch things together with Colt McCoy, Jeff Driskel and David Blough. That can't make wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins happy after not getting traded. Ossenfort did a nice job moving up and down the early part of the first round and landing tackle Paris Johnson Jr., who will protect Murray when he's back, as well as picking up Houston's first- and third-round picks in 2024, which figure to be prime choices.

## LOS ANGELES RAMS

It gets a little old watching Sean McVay go through a career crisis every year — and he's only 37-years-old. Memo to Sean: Either you want to coach or you don't. But coming across as a tortured soul is a bad look. One season after winning the Super Bowl, the Rams were 5-12 and are now in a rebuild. Quarterback Matthew Stafford missed the final seven games with a neck injury and wide receiver Cooper Kupp missed the final eight with an ankle injury that required surgery. So much for the offense. Their biggest offseason transaction was trading shutdown corner Jalen Ramsey to the Dolphins for only a third-round pick and little-used tight end Hunter Long. McVay and general manager Les Snead traded two first-round picks and a fourth-round pick to the Jaguars in 2019 to acquire Ramsey.

## SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Mr. Irrelevant is relevant in San Francisco. The Niners are hoping Purdy, who took over for an injured Jimmy Garoppolo, who took over for an injured Trey Lance, is back from his serious elbow injury suffered early in the NFC title game that required surgery. Lance was supposed to be the guy last season after the 49ers traded three No. 1 picks to the Dolphins in 2021 to move up to get him. But he suffered a season-ending ankle injury in the second game. Purdy, the 262nd and last pick in the '22 draft, finished a victory against Miami when Garoppolo injured his foot, then won all five of his starts to end the regular season, beat the Seahawks in the playoffs, but then was hurt early in Philly, the third 49ers quarterback to suffer a season-ending injury. The Niners are loaded with Christian McCaffrey, Deebo Samuel and George Kittle on offense and Nick Bosa and a shutdown defense, and could be on their way to the Super Bowl.

## SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

There is life in Seattle after Russell Wilson, Plenty of life. Playoff life. The only problem with Geno Smith winning the Comeback Player of the Year award: What was he coming back from? The bench? Smith was a career backup in his first eight years in the NFL, other than a short stint starting with the Jets and one game with the Giants. He led the Seahawks to an unexpected wild-card playoff spot. He tossed 30 touchdown passes after having only 34 in his previous nine seasons with the Jets, Giants, Chargers and Seahawks. He already had elite receivers in DK Metcalf and Tyler Lockett before head coach Pete Carroll did him a favor by taking Ohio State slot Jaxon Smith-Njigba. Fifth-round corner Tariq Woolen was incredible value as a rookie and the Seahawks strengthened the secondary by adding cornerback Devon Witherspoon with the fifth pick in the first round.

## STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

| | Overall | Div. | 8 Non Div. | 3 Non Div. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Francisco | .514 | .353 | .607 | .588 |
| Seattle | .517 | .431 | .607 | .451 |
| Los Angeles | .533 | .510 | .607 | .382 |
| Arizona | .519 | .529 | .607 | .265 |

8 Non-Div. are games vs. two common divisions;
3 Non-Div. are games vs. teams with same place in standings.

## 5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

**1. Could the Cardinals wind up with the first two picks in the 2024 draft?**

They will likely play most of the season without Kyler Murray, so they will be fortunate to win four games. They also made a shrewd draft-day trade that brought back Houston's No. 1 pick. Connect the dots. Also sounds a lot like Bears situation.

**2. Have the Rams been too cavalier trading away first-round picks?**

If they had not won Super Bowl LVI after the 2021 season, the answer would be a definitive yes. But any team would be willing to go without a first-round pick from 2017-2023 in exchange for one Vince Lombardi Trophy. Now they are paying for it.

**3. Did the 49ers buy too soon by taking kicker Jake Moody in the third round?**

He was the best kicker in college football. Veteran Robbie Gould was near perfect but didn't want to return to San Francisco. So many games, too many games, are determined by the kickers. This was a good move.

**4. Was Geno Smith a one-year wonder or can he sustain his success from 2022?**

Carroll has done all he could to maintain Smith's confidence: Smith received a new three-year $75 million contract. And despite Carroll preparing him for the possibility the Seahawks could take a quarterback in the first round, they didn't take one at all.

**5. What's the must-see matchup?**

49ers at Seahawks. This looks to be the 49ers division depending on Purdy's health. The Seahawks are their main competition. The head-to-head matchups will decide things.

— Gary Myers

# ARIZONA CARDINALS

## Trying To Pick Up The Pieces

It is a season of change for the Cardinals in more ways than one as they embark on a nearly complete rebuild around quarterback Kyler Murray. Gone is head coach Kliff Kingsbury and general manager Steve Keim and in their places are a pair of new faces: Jonathan Gannon and Monti Ossenfort.

For the new era of Cardinals, who are an energetic bunch, it's about righting the wrongs of the previous regime and showing some sort of improvement following last year's dismal 4-13 finish that was filled with injuries, questionable coaching and poor play. But it will be a tough feat to accomplish in Year 1, given the unknown surrounding Arizona's franchise quarterback and his eventual return from a torn ACL in addition to a roster that is littered with holes.

The changes go well beyond the coaching staff, with many of last year's main contributors heading elsewhere such as Arizona's 2022 sack leader J.J. Watt (retired) and an up-and-coming Zach Allen (Denver Broncos). The team also watched local product and cornerback Byron Murphy Jr. depart in free agency (Minnesota Vikings). The roster remains in flux, too, with question marks surrounding two of the Cardinals' best players in safety Budda Baker and wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins, who have been at the center of trade chatter this offseason with the rebuild in full swing. But regardless of who is on the roster and who isn't, patience and competition are going to be key for the Cardinals in the present and future.

**James Conner**

Photo by David Jensen/Icon Sportswire via AP Images

**4**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 4-13

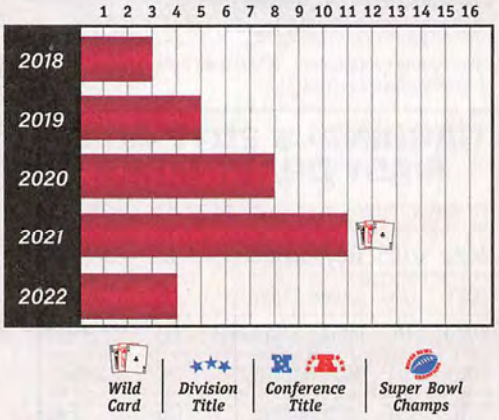
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 1-5

**STADIUM:** State Farm Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 65,000

**SURFACE:** Grass

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

**DIGNITY HEALTH ARIZONA CARDINALS TRAINING CENTER**
**8701 S. HARDY DRIVE**
**TEMPE, AZ 85284**
**(602) 379-0101**
**WWW.AZCARDINALS.COM**

**TRAINING CAMP:** State Farm Stadium, Glendale, AZ
**HEAD COACH:** Jonathan Gannon
•1st season as Cardinals/NFL head coach
**OWNER:** Michael Bidwill
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Monti Ossenfort
**ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER:** Dave Sears
**VP PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Quentin Harris
**DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Dru Grigson
**DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Josh Scobey
**DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:** Glen Fox
**DIRECTOR FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION:** Matt Harriss

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Drew Petzing | Offensive coordinator | 10 | 1 |
| Israel Woolfork | Quarterbacks | 2 | 1 |
| Klayton Adams | Offensive line | 5 | 1 |
| Chris Cook | Assistant line | 2 | 1 |
| Autry Denson | Running backs | 1 | 1 |
| Drew Terrell | *Receivers | 6 | 1 |
| Spencer Whipple | Passing game specialist | 5 | 5 |
| Ben Steele | Tight ends | 12 | 1 |
| Connor Senger | Off. quality control | 2 | 2 |
| Blaine Gautier | Bill Bidwill Fellow | 1 | 1 |
| Nick Rallis | Defensive coordinator | 6 | 1 |
| Derrick LeBlanc | Defensive line | 2 | 1 |
| William Peagler | Asst. line | 1 | 1 |
| Sam Siefkes | Linebackers | 3 | 1 |
| Rob Rodriguez | Outside linebackers | 6 | 1 |
| Patrick Toney | Defensive backs | 1 | 1 |
| Ryan Smith | Cornerbacks | 1 | 1 |
| Ronald Booker | Def.quality control | 3 | 3 |
| Jeff Rodgers | #Special teams coord. | 20 | 6 |
| Sam Sewell | Asst. special teams | 1 | 1 |
| Kenny Bell | Dir. Football strategy | 5 | 5 |
| Shea Thompson | Dir. football performance | 8 | 1 |
| Evan Marcus | Head S&C | 17 | 1 |
| Mark Naylor | Assistant S&C | 5 | 4 |
| Jason Benguche | Assistant S&C | 8 | 1 |
| Everrett Gathron | Assistant S&C | 1 | 1 |
| Kyle Sammons | @Assistant S&C | 1 | 1 |
| Buddy Morris | Sr. conditioning coord. | 13 | 10 |

* Pass game coordinator # Assistant head coach
@ Sports science coordinator

## CARDINALS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 2/55 | Trey McBride | TE | Backup |
| 2021 | 1/16 | Zaven Collins | LB | Starter |
| 2020 | 1/8 | Isaiah Simmons | LB | Starter |
| 2019 | 1/1 | Kyler Murray | QB | Starter |
| 2018 | 1/10 | Josh Rosen | QB | FA |

## COACHING

There are a lot of firsts when it comes down to the 2023 Cardinals coaching staff, with Gannon, defensive coordinator Nick Rallis and offensive coordinator Drew Petzing in their respective roles for the first time in their careers. But aside from their newness in those positions, the trio has picked up valuable experience moving up the NFL ranks. There are others on the staff looking to ascend up the ladder like they did, too, like passing game coordinator/wide receivers coach and hometown kid Drew Terrell. Luckily, he and the rest of the youth throughout the coaching staff have the benefit of learning from assistant head coach and special-teams coordinator Jeff Rodgers, who is serving on his third coaching staff since arriving in Arizona in 2018. The team also returned former co-passing game coordinator Spencer Whipple as a passing game specialist.

**RATING: 6.5**

## QUARTERBACKS

Murray is the unquestioned face of the franchise. He does things others cannot do on the football field. It's just unclear when the quarterback will return from a torn ACL. After going down with the injury in a Week 14 loss to the New England Patriots last season, the quarterback has been rehabbing his knee in hopes of making it back sooner rather than later. But with no timeline given by Gannon, the jury's out as to when the signal-caller will take his place leading the offense.

Behind Murray sits Colt McCoy, David Blough and 2023 fifth-round draft pick Clayton Tune. McCoy figures to have the upper hand on locking down the starting job while Murray is sidelined, although the Cardinals have preached competition since the new coaching staff got to town.

**RATING: 6.5**

## RUNNING BACKS

James Conner returns for a third season as the Cardinals' lead back. The bruising running back may not have reached his 18-touchdown mark from two seasons ago, but he still managed to score eight times in 2022 to go along with 782 rushing yards and 300 receiving on 46 receptions. In addition to what he does on the field, he also brings added leadership to the locker room. Behind Conner, though, the running back room is relatively unexperienced outside of Corey Clement.

Keaontay Ingram figures to be the leading candidate to take over change-of-pace reps as he enters his second NFL season after appear-

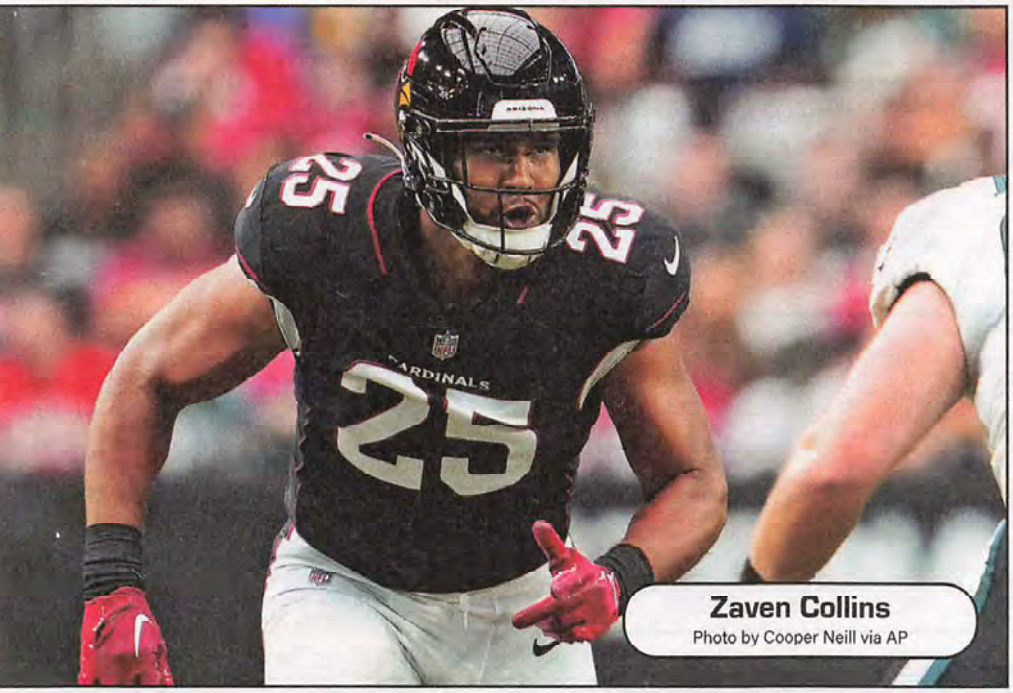
## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

The Cardinals have one of the more talent-depleted rosters around the league and enter a transitional year with new GM Monti Ossenfort and head coach Jonathan Gannon. Expect lots of competition, as they attempt to bring in new players that fit their system. ... Arizona will attempt to squeeze the rock dry that is WR **Rondale Moore**. Blessed with tantalizing athleticism, Moore has teased the organization with small doses of electric playmaking ability and frequent appearances on the injury report. If Moore is unable to hold up, fellow WR **Greg Dortch** will be ready to step in. In fact, observers might argue that Dortch was the more effective player a year ago. ... The 100th overall selection of the 2022 draft, LB **Myjai Sanders,** would appear to be an excellent value based on his rookie campaign. Sanders holds promising upside, earning four starts, while demonstrating the ability to stop the run, or get after the quarterback. He was even involved in a few turnovers. His role should increase significantly. ... Known as a defensive mastermind, Gannon will be tasked with making the most of LB **Cameron Thomas.** The Cardinals' pass-rush was nonexistent for most of the season, so there is nowhere to go but up.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

**ISAIAH SIMMONS**

There is no Cardinal under the microscope more this season than Simmons. With Arizona declining to pick up his fifth-year option, Simmons will hit the open market in 2024. In a prove-it year, Simmons still remains without a concrete role within the defense after moving around the scheme the past three seasons. Simmons has shown he can be a game-changing force in the NFL over the course of three seasons, amassing 258 tackles, 7.5 sacks, four interceptions, 16 passes defensed and seven forced fumbles. But struggles with consistency continue to be a problem for the linebacker. There is always a chance Simmons re-signs with Arizona, but it seems unlikely, especially with a new regime looking to bring their own guys in.



Zaven Collins
Photo by Cooper Neill via AP

ing in 12 games as a rookie. Ty'Son Williams has prior experience in the NFL, but is viewed as more of a special-teams piece than a threat offensively, much like Clement.

RATING: 7

## RECEIVERS

Will he stay or will he go? That's the question surrounding Hopkins amid continued trade speculation. If he sticks around, Arizona has one of the better receiving corps in the NFL. If he leaves, the room and offense overall will take a serious hit. Despite playing in a season-low nine games last season due to a PED suspension and injury, Hopkins still paced the team in receiving yards and was second in touchdowns and receptions. There's also an unknown surrounding elite tight end Zach Ertz, who is recovering from a torn ACL suffered in Week 10. Beyond those names, Arizona's pass-catching corps features Hollywood Brown, Zach Pascal, Rondale Moore, Trey McBride and Greg Dortch. Brown has shown he has the ability to be a No. 1 option, but has yet to do so on a consistent basis. The Cardinals also selected wide receiver Michael Wilson in the third round of the 2023 draft.

RATING: 7

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Despite the loss of the now-retired Rodney Hudson and free agent Justin Pugh, the Cardinals return a majority of their 2022 starting offensive line led by left tackle D.J. Humphries, right guard Will Hernandez and right tackle Kelvin Beachum. Health will be a huge factor for this group as the line was decimated by injury last season, with Beachum the lone offensive starter to play in every game. Luckily, the Cardinals have an improved Josh Jones and arguably the best lineman in this year's draft in Paris Johnson Jr. for new offensive line coach Klayton

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

**KEY ADDITION:**
**T/G Paris Johnson Jr.**
Rookie offensive lineman Paris Johnson Jr. is by the far the biggest addition to Arizona's roster in 2023. He brings added depth, versatility and youth to an offensive line in need of all three.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**
LB Krys Barnes, T Jackson Barton, CB Kris Boyd, DE L.J. Collier, G/T Dennis Daley, QB Jeff Driskel, CB Rashad Fenton, C/G Hjalte Froholdt, S Jovante Moffatt, WR Zach Pascal, DL Kevin Strong, DE Carlos Watkins, LB Kyzir White, T Elijah Wilkinson, LB Josh Woods

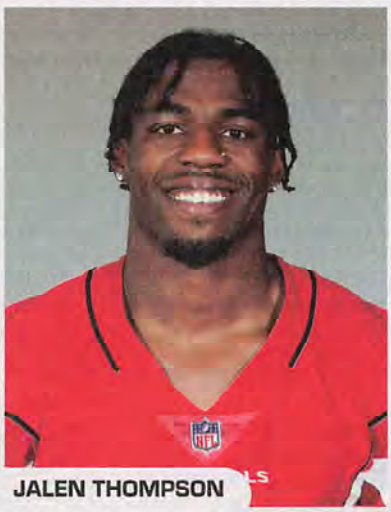
**KEY LOSS:**
**DE Zach Allen (13/13)***
The impact of losing the fourth-year pro will be felt by the Cardinals this season and into the future, especially after learning from future Hall of Famer J.J. Watt the past two years.

**OTHER LOSSES:**
WR Chosen Anderson (10/2), TE Stephen Anderson (16/0), S Chris Banjo (13/1), LS Aaron Brewer (15/0), WR/RS Pharoh Cooper (5/1), T/G Rashaad Coward (4/3), DL Michael Dogbe (13/4), G/T Cody Ford (11/3), G Max Garcia (12/7), **LB Markus Golden (17/14)**, **WR A.J. Green (15/10)**, LB Kamu Grugier-Hill (9/0), C/G Sean Harlow (17/3), DT Trysten Hill (6/0), C Rodney Hudson (4/4), CB Josh Jackson (1/0), P Andy Lee (17/0), QB Trace McSorley (6/1), T Joshua Miles (0/0), **CB Byron Murphy Jr. (9/9)**, **C Billy Price (11/11)**, **G Justin Pugh (5/5)**, LB Tanner Vallejo (17/5), LB Nick Vigil (4/2), S Charles Washington (6/0), **DE J.J. Watt (16/16)**, WR Antoine Wesley (0/0), CB Jace Whittaker (6/4), RB Darrel Williams (6/0), TE Maxx Williams (11/1)*
**Total games played/started lost: 295/119**

**STARTERS RETURNING**
15: 8 offense, 7 defense, kicker

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS



JALEN THOMPSON

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kyler Murray | 390 | 259 | 2368 | 14 | 7 |
| Colt McCoy | 132 | 90 | 780 | 1 | 3 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| James Conner | 183 | 782 | 4.3 | 7 |
| Kyler Murray | 67 | 418 | 6.2 | 3 |
| Eno Benjamin | 70 | 299 | 4.3 | 2 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DeAndre Hopkins | 64 | 717 | 11.2 | 3 |
| Marquise Brown | 67 | 709 | 10.6 | 3 |
| Greg Dortch | 52 | 467 | 9.0 | 2 |
| Rondale Moore | 41 | 414 | 10.1 | 1 |

**Kicking:** Prater 17/18 XPs, 22/25 FGs, 83 points
**Tackles:** Baker 111, Thompson 109, Collins 100
**Sacks:** Wtt 12.5, Allen 5.5, Simmons 4
**INTs:** Wilson 3, Baker 2, Simmons 2

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 323.5 | 22 |
| Passing Offense | 213.3 | 18 |
| Rushing Offense | 110.2 | 22 |
| Points | 20 | 21 |
| Sacked | 46 | T-23 |
| 3rd Down % | 35.2 | 25 |
| **Defense** | | |
| Total Defense | 348.9 | 21 |
| Passing Defense | 230.3 | 24 |
| Rushing Defense | 118.6 | 14 |
| Points Allowed | 26.4 | 31 |
| INTs | 11 | T-21 |
| Sacks | 36 | T-23 |
| Turnover Diff. | -5 | T-26 |

# CARDINALS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 82 | Baccellia, Andre | 5-10 | 175 | 2 | Washington | 8/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA KC 20 | Has been a depth piece for the Cardinals since signing on with the team in 2021. |
| **2** | **Brown, Marquise** | **5-9** | **180** | **5** | **Oklahoma** | **12/11/0/0** | **T,BLT 22** | **D1 BLT 19** | **Has a great relationship with Kyler Murray and has flashes of a No. 1 wide receiver.** |
| 83 | Dortch, Greg | 5-7 | 175 | 2 | Wake Forest | 16/4/0/1 | FA 21 | CFA NYJ 19 | An underrated pass-catcher who was third on the team in receptions with 52 in 2022. |
| **86** | ***Ertz, Zach (TE)** | **6-5** | **250** | **11** | **Stanford** | **10/10/0/1** | **T,PHA 21** | **D2 PHA 13** | **A security blanket for Murray and one of the Cardinals' most trusted pass-catchers.** |
| **10** | **Hopkins, DeAndre** | **6-1** | **212** | **11** | **Clemson** | **9/9/0/2** | **T,HOUS 20** | **D1 HOUS 13** | **The Cardinals' unquestioned No. 1 receiving option if he sticks around the desert.** |
| 85 | McBride, Trey (TE) | 6-4 | 246 | 2 | Colorado State | 16/13/0/1 | D2 22 | D2 ARIZ 22 | Showed his worth as a blocker last season. Now, he must step up as a pass-catcher. |
| **4** | ***Moore, Rondale (WR)** | **5-7** | **181** | **3** | **Purdue** | **8/8/0/5** | **D2 21** | **D2 ARIZ 21** | **Is quickest player on the roster and can make big-time plays. Injuries a concern.** |
| 0 | Pascal, Zach | 6-2 | 215 | 6 | Old Dominion | 17/2 | UFA,PHA 23 | CFA WSH 17 | Reunites with coach Jonathan Gannon. Brings a bigger body to the wide receiver room. |
| 13 | Wilson, Michael | 6-2 | 209 | R | Stanford | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 ARIZ 23 | Joins the Cardinals after recording four touchdowns in his final season at Stanford. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 66 | Barton, Jackson (T) | 6-7 | 302 | 5 | Utah | 6/0/1/7 | UFA,LV 22 | D7 IND 19 | Heads to the desert after spending the last two seasons with the Las Vegas Raiders. |
| **68** | **Beachum Jr., Kelvin (RT)** | **6-3** | **308** | **12** | **Southern Methodist** | **17/17** | **FA 20** | **D7 PITT 12** | **A trusted veteran who leads by example and holds others on the team accountable.** |
| 71 | Daley, Dennis (G/T) | 6-6 | 326 | 5 | South Carolina | 17/15 | UFA,TENN 23 | D6 CARO 19 | Struggled at tackle with the Titans last season, but could move to guard in Arizona. |
| 50 | Davenport, Julien (T) | 6-7 | 315 | 6 | Bucknell | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D4 HOUS 17 | On his fifth NFL team since 2017. Will likely be a depth or practice-squad piece. |
| 72 | Froholdt, Hjalte (G/C) | 6-5 | 310 | 5 | Arkansas | 17/6 | UFA,CLV 23 | D4 NE 19 | Is among top candidates currently on the roster to fill in at center this season. |
| **59** | **Gaines II, Jon (C/G)** | **6-4** | **300** | **R** | **UCLA** | **0/0** | **D4 23** | **D4 ARIZ 23** | **A versatile rookie who could very well be in the mix to start at center this season.** |
| 78 | *Hayes, Marquis (G) | 6-5 | 318 | 2 | Oklahoma | 0/0/0/0 | D7 22 | D7 ARIZ 22 | Spent his rookie season on IR. Has the build to be an option at either guard spots. |
| **76** | **Hernandez, Will (RG)** | **6-3** | **332** | **6** | **Texas-El Paso** | **13/13/0/0** | **UFA,NYG 22** | **D2 NYG 18** | **Is coming off solid debut season in Arizona. The enforcer along the offensive line.** |
| **74** | ***Humphries, D.J. (LT)** | **6-5** | **307** | **9** | **Florida** | **8/8/0/3** | **D1 15** | **D1 ARIZ 15** | **Saw his 2022 season cut short due to back issues. A trusted option on the outside.** |
| **70** | **Johnson Jr., Paris (LG/T)** | **6-6** | **310** | **R** | **Ohio State** | **0/0** | **D1 23** | **D1 ARIZ 23** | **The 2023 first-rounder should be a starter early on; can play just about anywhere.** |
| 79 | Jones, Josh (T/G) | 6-7 | 310 | 4 | Houston | 17/9 | D3 20 | D3 ARIZ 20 | Took big step forward last season in place of Humphries. Should challenge to start. |
| 54 | Smith, Lecitus (C) | 6-3 | 314 | 2 | Virginia Tech | 10/2/1/6 | D6 22 | D6 ARIZ 22 | Played 10 games as a rookie and has the ability to move between guard and center. |
| 65 | Wilkinson, Elijah (T) | 6-6 | 314 | 7 | Massachusetts | 9/9/0/3 | UFA,ATL 23 | CFA DEN 17 | Enters seventh NFL season as a veteran depth piece that can move across the line. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | Clement, Corey | 5-10 | 220 | 7 | Wisconsin | 9/1/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA PHA 17 | Returns to Arizona after serving mostly as a special teamer in nine games last year. |
| **6** | **Conner, James** | **6-1** | **233** | **7** | **Pittsburgh** | **13/13/0/4** | **UFA,PITT 21** | **D3 PITT 17** | **Brings an added level of toughness and grit to the room and franchise as a whole.** |
| 30 | Ingram, Keaontay | 6-0 | 221 | 2 | Southern Cal | 12/0/0/5 | D6 22 | D6 ARIZ 22 | Touched the rock 31 times as a rookie and should see that number increase. |
| 22 | Williams, Ty'Son | 6-0 | 220 | 2 | Brigham Young | 1/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA BLT 20 | Only played in one game for Arizona last year. An added body in the room if needed. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | Blough, David | 6-1 | 207 | 3 | Purdue | 2/2/1/1 | FA 23 | CFA CLV 19 | Started two games for Arizona late last season after injuries plagued the QBs room. |
| 14 | Driskel, Jeff | 6-4 | 235 | 7 | Louisiana Tech | 7/2/0/0 | UFA,HOUS 23 | D6 SF 16 | Heads to Arizona after playing in eight games over the past two seasons in Houston. |
| 12 | McCoy, Colt | 6-1 | 212 | 14 | Texas | 4/3/5/3 | UFA,NYG 21 | D3 CLV 10 | A trusted voice in the locker room and the team's likely Week 1 starter this season. |
| **1** | ***Murray, Kyler** | **5-10** | **207** | **5** | **Oklahoma** | **11/11/0/2** | **D1 19** | **D1 ARIZ 19** | **The unquestioned starter with an unknown timeline for a return from his torn ACL.** |
| 15 | Tune, Clayton | 6-2 | 216 | R | Houston | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 ARIZ 23 | Thinks he's best QB in the 2023 draft class. Gives Arizona another mobile option. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 69 | Banks, Eric (T) | 6-5 | 274 | 1 | Texas-San Antonio | 1/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA LAR 20 | First signed to the practice squad last season, Banks played one game for Arizona. |
| **91** | **Collier, L.J. (T)** | **6-2** | **291** | **5** | **Texas Christian** | **8/0/0/2** | **UFA,SEA 23** | **D1 SEA 19** | **A 2019 first-rounder for Seattle that should have a starting role with Cardinals.** |
| 95 | Fotu, Leki (T) | 6-5 | 335 | 4 | Utah | 17/9 | D4 20 | D4 ARIZ 20 | Has a chance to see added reps after appearing in all 17 games the past two seasons. |
| 96 | Jones, Manny (T) | 6-4 | 290 | 1 | Colorado State | 4/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA ARIZ 22 | Got a chance to play in four games late in the season on defense due to injuries. |
| **90** | ***Lawrence, Rashard (NT)** | **6-2** | **308** | **4** | **Louisiana State** | **5/5/0/2** | **D4 20** | **D4 ARIZ 20** | **Has shown flashes inside, but has struggled to stay healthy over three years.** |
| 93 | *Ledbetter, Jonathan (E) | 6-4 | 282 | 3 | Georgia | 14/3/0/2 | FA 22 | CFA MIA 19 | Appeared in a career-high 14 games in 2022 after playing in two across two years. |
| **18** | **Ojulari, B.J. (E/OLB)** | **6-3** | **250** | **R** | **Louisiana State** | **0/0** | **D2 23** | **D1 ARIZ 23** | **A rookie out of LSU already turning members of the coaching staff's heads.** |
| 98 | Stills, Dante (T) | 6-4 | 280 | R | West Virginia | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 ARIZ 23 | Arizona's final pick of the 2023 draft. Has a hill to climb for playing time. |
| 92 | Strong, Kevin (E) | 6-4 | 295 | 4 | Texas-San Antonio | 16/1/0/1 | UFA,TENN 23 | CFA DET 19 | Is among the mix of new and old defenders vying for added playing time this season. |
| **97** | **Thomas, Cameron (E/OLB)** | **6-4** | **267** | **2** | **San Diego State** | **17/0** | **D3 22** | **D3 ARIZ 22** | **Registered three sacks last year and could likely slide over as a defensive lineman.** |
| 94 | Watkins, Carlos (E) | 6-3 | 305 | 7 | Clemson | 12/4/0/0 | UFA,DALL 23 | D4 HOUS 17 | Could have a shot to start inside following six seasons between Houston and Dallas. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 56 | Barnes, Krys (I) | 6-2 | 229 | 4 | UCLA | 6/1/0/4 | FA 23 | CFA GB 20 | A strong depth option in the room that can also serve as a special teamer. |
| **25** | **Collins, Zaven (O)** | **6-4** | **260** | **3** | **Tulsa** | **16/16/0/1** | **D1 21** | **D1 ARIZ 21** | **Took noticeable step forward on and off the field last season. Should be a captain.** |
| 52 | Dimukeje, Victor (O) | 6-2 | 262 | 3 | Duke | 14/2/0/3 | D6 21 | D6 ARIZ 21 | Is coming off a second season where he saw a career high in defensive snaps (247). |
| 45 | Gardeck, Dennis (O) | 6-0 | 232 | 6 | Sioux Falls | 14/3/0/3 | CFA 18 | CFA ARIZ 18 | A proven special-teams specialist who has surprised as a pass rusher in the past. |
| 43 | Luketa, Jesse (O) | 6-3 | 253 | 2 | Penn State | 7/0/0/7 | FA 22 | D7 ARIZ 22 | Appeared in seven games last year mostly on special teams. Needs a strong offseason. |
| 44 | Pappoe, Owen (I) | 6-0 | 225 | R | Auburn | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 ARIZ 23 | The 2023 fifth-rounder is coming off a two-sack, 91-tackle senior season at Auburn. |
| 41 | Sanders, Myjai (O) | 6-5 | 248 | 2 | Cincinnati | 13/4/0/4 | D3 22 | D3 ARIZ 22 | Really has the potential to start after flashing as rookie pass rusher last season. |
| **9** | **Simmons, Isaiah (O)** | **6-4** | **238** | **4** | **Clemson** | **17/13** | **D1 20** | **D1 ARIZ 20** | **Arizona's versatile unicorn of the defense that has no real home to hang his hat.** |
| 47 | Turner, Ezekiel (I) | 6-2 | 214 | 6 | Washington | 15/1/0/2 | CFA 18 | CFA ARIZ 18 | Another veteran special-teams ace that also provides added depth to the LB position. |
| **7** | **White, Kyzir (I)** | **6-2** | **234** | **5** | **West Virginia** | **17/8** | **UFA,PHA 23** | **D4 LAC 18** | **Coming off a 110-tackle season and has familiarity with head coach Jonathan Gannon.** |
| 51 | Woods, Josh (I) | 6-1 | 230 | 5 | Maryland | 17/0 | UFA,DET 23 | CFA CHI 18 | A known special teamer that fits the mold coordinator Jeff Rodgers is looking for. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **3** | ***Baker, Budda (S)** | **5-10** | **195** | **7** | **Washington** | **15/15/0/0** | **D2 17** | **D2 ARIZ 17** | **Is the team's best defensive player by a mile, but is looking to get out of Arizona.** |
| 29 | Boyd, Kris (CB) | 5-11 | 195 | 5 | Texas | 17/0 | UFA,MINN 23 | D7 MINN 19 | Adds depth to cornerbacks room, but will likely be used more as a special teamer. |
| 26 | Clark, Kei'Trel (CB) | 5-10 | 179 | R | Louisville | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 ARIZ 23 | A 2023 sixth-round draft pick with a lot of energy after three seasons at Louisville. |
| 24 | Fenton, Rashad (CB) | 5-11 | 193 | 5 | South Carolina | 7/6/1/8 | UFA,ATL 23 | D6 KC 19 | Enters his fifth NFL season after spending time with the Falcons and Chiefs in 2022. |
| 27 | *Hairston, Nate (CB) | 6-0 | 185 | 6 | Temple | 2/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D5 IND 17 | Played in two games last season before being placed on practice-squad injured. |
| **33** | **Hamilton Sr., Antonio (CB)** | **6-0** | **195** | **8** | **South Carolina State** | **10/5/0/3** | **FA 21** | **CFA OAK 16** | **Enters his third year in Arizona as likely starter after re-signing this offseason.** |
| 35 | Matthew, Christian (CB) | 6-2 | 195 | 2 | Valdosta State | 14/3/0/3 | FA 22 | D7 ARIZ 22 | A lengthy prototype that played 14 games and made three starts as rookie in 2022. |
| 38 | *Moffatt, Jovante (S) | 5-11 | 213 | 3 | Middle Tennessee | 2/0/0/5 | W,ATL 23 | CFA CLV 20 | A depth piece that has not played more than nine games across three NFL seasons. |
| **34** | **Thompson, Jalen (S)** | **5-11** | **190** | **5** | **Washington State** | **17/17** | **SD5 19** | **SD5 ARIZ 19** | **Continues to make name for himself after back-to-back years of 110 tackles or more.** |
| 21 | Williams, Garrett (CB) | 6-0 | 189 | R | Syracuse | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 ARIZ 23 | A 2023 third-round draft pick that brings a high motor and added level of violence. |
| **20** | **Wilson, Marco (CB)** | **6-0** | **191** | **3** | **Florida** | **14/13/0/3** | **D4 21** | **D4 ARIZ 21** | **Arizona's No. 1 option at cornerback this season after three interceptions in 2022.** |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | Cooney, Nolan (P) | 6-3 | 202 | 1 | Syracuse | 0/0/0/1 | FA 23 | CFA NORL 21 | The only punter on the roster with long-time option and vet Andy Lee a free agent. |
| 48 | Fortunato, Joe (LS) | 6-4 | 240 | 1 | Delaware | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | FA IND 17 | Signed to a futures contract. He will most likely compete with UDFA Matt Hembrough. |
| 5 | Prater, Matt (K) | 5-10 | 201 | 16 | Central Florida | 13/0/0/4 | UFA,DET 21 | CFA DET 06 | A trusted leg entering his third season with the Cardinals after going 22 of 25 in 2022. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Daniel Arias (Colorado), Auden Tate (5, Florida State), Javon Wims (4, Georgia); TEs Joel Honigford (Michigan), Chris Pierce Jr. (1, Vanderbilt), Bernhard Seikovits (1, None), Noah Togiai (2, Oregon State), Blake Whiteheart (Wake Forest); T Badara Traore (1, Louisiana State); G Hayden Howerton (1, Southern Methodist); T/G Lachavious Simmons (3, Tennessee State); RB Emari Demercado (Texas Christian); DL Jacob Slade (Michigan State); LBs Blake Lynch (2, Baylor), Marvin Pierre (Kent State), Kyle Soelle (Arizona State); CB Quavian White (Georgia State); Ss Kendell Brooks (Michigan State), JuJu Hughes (3, Fresno State), Josh Thomas (1, Appalachian State); K Elliott Fry (1 South Carolina); LS Matt Hembrough (Oklahoma State)

Adams to work with. Center and right guard remain the biggest needs for the Cardinals, with Hjalte Froholdt, Lecitus Smith, Dennis Daley and 2023 fourth-rounder Jon Gaines II four potential in-house candidates for one or both of those roles.

RATING: 7

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The defensive line saw a massive turnover of talent this offseason. J.J. Watt left in retirement, while Zach Allen headed to the Denver Broncos via free agency. That's 18 of Arizona's 36 sacks in 2022 that just walked out the door. Their departures leave behind a line that is one of the weakest spots on the team. Jonathan Ledbetter, Leki Fotu, Rashard Lawrence and Manny Jones return to the mix in addition to newcomers Carlos Watkins, Kevin Strong and L.J. Collier. Additionally, Arizona has 2023 sixth-rounder Dante Stills as interior depth. Mystery surrounds the scheme the Cardinals are cooking up for the defense.

RATING: 6

## LINEBACKERS

Zaven Collins leads the way for the room following 100 tackles in 2022. He and the position-less Isaiah Simmons are joined by newcomer Kyzir White, who heads to Arizona after spending last season with Philadelphia, atop the depth chart. And after the release of Markus Golden this offseason, Cam Thomas and Myjai Sanders are expected to take on larger roles in their second seasons, though they may come off the line in coordinator Nick Rallis' defense. Second-round pick B.J. Ojulari will contribute to the pass rush from wherever he lines up. Dennis Gardeck has shown flashes in the past and carries a strong special-teams presence, while Victor Dimukeje, Jesse Luketa and rookie Owen Pappoe round out the room for depth.

RATING: 7

## SECONDARY

Having seen cornerback Byron Murphy Jr. head to the Vikings in free agency, Marco Wilson and Antonio Hamilton Sr. return as Arizona's likely starters in 2023. Behind those two, though, the depth takes a considerable hit, with Christian Matthew the next man up after a 14-game rookie season. The Cardinals also have 2023 rookie cornerbacks Garrett Williams and Kei'Trel Clark to consider, although the former is coming off a torn ACL suffered in his final year at Syracuse. And unlike past seasons, Arizona's starting safeties are anything but a lock after five-time Pro Bowler Budda Baker requested a trade this offseason. Seeing Baker return would give the team an instant boost alongside Jalen Thompson, who continues to improve year after year and is coming off back-to-back 100-tackle efforts.

RATING: 7

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Matt Prater returns as a trusted kicking option. Greg Dortch figures to be in the mix as the team's return specialist after taking back 11 punts and 26 kicks for 390 combined yards. Rondale Moore could be another option to consider given his usage in the past. From there, though, the special-teams unit gets murky with punter Nolan Cooney and long snappers Joe Fortunato and Matt Hembrough the only options on the roster after both Andy Lee and Aaron Brewer, two mainstays from prior seasons, weren't re-signed.

RATING: 6

## INTANGIBLES

The Cardinals face a lot of challenges in 2023. Arguably their biggest issue surrounds their ability to effectively rush the passer along with when Murray will be available to play. With J.J. Watt and Zach Allen no longer on the team, there are massive holes along the line of scrimmage that need to be addressed. Gannon exudes energy, but there remain many questions about the talent on the roster. Since the Cardinals were 10-2 in 2021, they are 5-18 including a playoff loss and have won only one home game.

RATING: Minus-1

— Tyler Drake

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. No matter what, the return of Kyler Murray is the biggest thing to watch for this season. Since going down with his knee injury late last season, it is still not known when exactly he will be back in action. And when that day finally comes, just how effective will he be coming off the worst injury of his career?

2. Something else to keep tabs on is the situation regarding Budda Baker. After requesting a trade this offseason, it's murky at best as to whether or not he'll be a Cardinal when the regular season rolls around.

3. Lastly, how does head coach Jonathan Gannon operate at the helm? In his first season as a head coach, a lot of eyes are going to be fixed on how he handles the highs and lows of the job.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 4-13**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | KANSAS CITY | 21-44 |
| Sept. 18 | at Las Vegas (OT) | 29-23 |
| Sept. 25 | L.A. RAMS | 12-20 |
| Oct. 2 | at Carolina | 26-16 |
| Oct. 9 | PHILADELPHIA | 17-20 |
| Oct. 16 | at Seattle | 9-19 |
| Oct. 20 | NEW ORLEANS | 42-34 |
| Oct. 30 | at Minnesota | 26-34 |
| Nov. 6 | SEATTLE | 21-31 |
| Nov. 13 | at L.A. Rams | 27-17 |
| Nov. 21 | SAN FRANCISCO | 10-38 |
| Nov. 27 | L.A. CHARGERS | 24-25 |
| Dec. 12 | NEW ENGLAND | 13-27 |
| Dec. 18 | at Denver | 15-24 |
| Dec. 25 | TAMPA BAY (OT) | 16-19 |
| Jan. 1 | at Atlanta | 19-20 |
| Jan. 8 | at San Francisco | 13-38 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Pacific/Mountain**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | DENVER | TBD |
| Aug. 17-21 | KANSAS CITY | TBD |
| Aug. 24-27 | at Minnesota | TBD |
| Sept. 10 | at Washington | 10:00 |
| Sept. 17 | N.Y. GIANTS | 1:05 |
| Sept. 24 | DALLAS | 1:25 |
| Oct. 1 | at San Francisco | 1:25 |
| Oct. 8 | CINCINNATI | 1:05 |
| Oct. 15 | at L.A. Rams | 1:25 |
| Oct. 22 | at Seattle | 1:05 |
| Oct. 29 | BALTIMORE | 1:25 |
| Nov. 5 | at Cleveland | 11:00 |
| Nov. 12 | ATLANTA | 2:05 |
| Nov. 19 | at Houston | 11:00 |
| Nov. 26 | L.A. RAMS | 2:05 |
| Dec. 3 | at Pittsburgh | 11:00 |
| | BYE | |
| Dec. 17 | SAN FRANCISCO | 2:05 |
| Dec. 24 | at Chicago | 2:25 |
| Dec. 31 | at Philadelphia | 11:00 |
| TBD | SEATTLE | TBD |

# LOS ANGELES RAMS

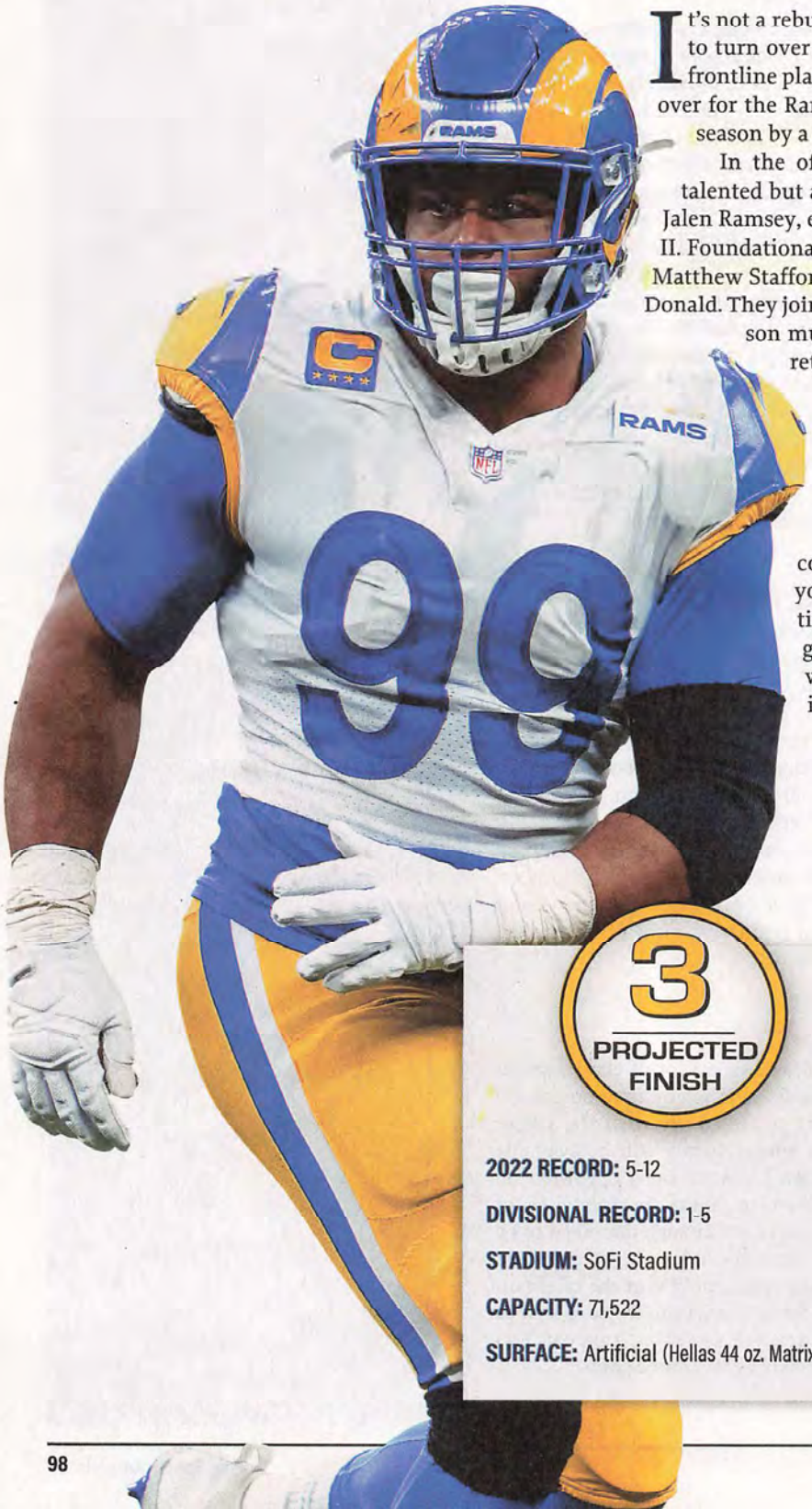
## Rams in Freefall Since Super Bowl Win

It's not a rebuild, it's a remodel according to Rams brass as they look to turn over the roster after a nightmarish 2022 season. Injuries to frontline players and just overall poor play led to a Super Bowl hangover for the Rams, as Los Angeles finished 5-12 last year — the worst season by a defending Super Bowl champ in NFL history.

In the offseason, the Rams traded away or outright released talented but aging players in linebacker Bobby Wagner, cornerback Jalen Ramsey, edge rusher Leonard Floyd and receiver Allen Robinson II. Foundational players sticking around for 2023 include quarterback Matthew Stafford, receiver Cooper Kupp and defensive lineman Aaron Donald. They join head coach Sean McVay, who for a second straight season mulled a potential move to the TV booth, but decided to return and lead L.A.'s effort to revamp things on the field.

"The most important thing is reestablishing a purpose," McVay said. "Reestablishing just the way you move throughout the course of your day and those things aren't finalized by any stretch. It's an everyday approach, but this is a blessing to be able to do this.

"I love coaching. I love working with players and coaches, and I think in some instances when you lose your way, you can lose perspective on things. And for the time that I had to reflect, I'm really grateful, and without great ownership you wouldn't have that. But this is when you say, all right, you're really excited about coming back."



**Aaron Donald**
Photo by AP Photo/Tyler Kaufman

**3**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 5-12

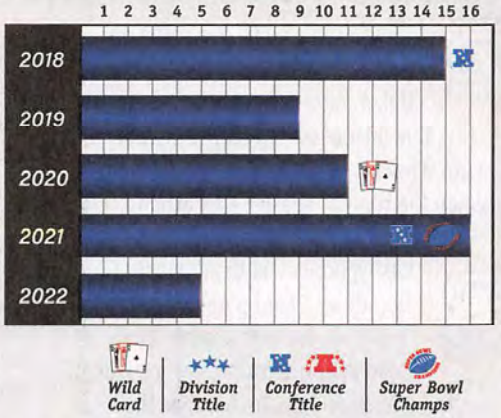
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 1-5

**STADIUM:** SoFi Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 71,522

**SURFACE:** Artificial (Hellas 44 oz. Matrix System)

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

**29899 AGOURA ROAD**
**AGOURA HILLS, CA 91301**
**WWW.THERAMS.COM**

**TRAINING CAMP:** University of California-Irvine, Irvine, CA
**HEAD COACH:** Sean McVay
•7th season as Rams/NFL head coach
• 67-41 overall; 7-3 postseason
**OWNER/CHAIRMAN:** E. Stanley Kroenke
**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** Kevin Demoff
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Les Snead
**VICE PRESIDENT FOOTBALL & BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION:** Tony Pastoors
**SR. PERSONNEL ADVISOR:** Taylor Morton
**SR. PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE:** Brian Xanders

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jimmy Lake | Assistant head coach | 5 | 1 |
| Mike LaFleur | Offensive coordinator | 10 | 1 |
| Zac Robinson | #Quarterbacks | 5 | 5 |
| Jake Peetz | Pass game specialist | 9 | 2 |
| Ryan Wendell | Offensive line | 5 | 1 |
| Zak Kromer | Assistant line | 8 | 7 |
| Ron Gould | Running backs | 1 | 1 |
| Eric Yarber | Receivers | 12 | 7 |
| Nick Caley | Tight ends | 9 | 1 |
| Nick Jones | Offensive assistant | 4 | 3 |
| K.J. Black | Offensive assistant | 2 | 2 |
| Raheem Morris | Defensive coordinator | 21 | 3 |
| Eric Henderson | @Defensive line | 7 | 5 |
| AC Carter | Assistant line | 2 | 1 |
| Chris Shula | &Linebackers | 9 | 7 |
| Joe Coniglio | Outside linebackers | 1 | 1 |
| Chris Beake | Defensive backs | 25 | 2 |
| Aubrey Pleasant | *Defensive backs | 7 | 5 |
| Mike Harris | Defensive assistant | 4 | 1 |
| Chase Blackburn | Special teams coordinator | 8 | 1 |
| Jeremy Springer | Asst. special teams | 2 | 2 |
| Justin Lovett | Director S&C | 4 | 4 |
| John Griffin | Associate S&C | 3 | 3 |
| Zach Witherspoon | Associate S&C | 3 | 3 |

#Offensive pass game coordinator
@Defense run game coordinator
&Pass rush coordinator *Defensive pass game coordinator

## RAMS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 3/104 | Logan Bruss | G | Backup |
| 2021 | 2/57 | Tutu Atwell | WR | Backup |
| 2020 | 2/52 | Cam Akers | RB | Starter |
| 2019 | 2/61 | Taylor Rapp | S | Bills |
| 2018 | 3/89 | Joseph Noteboom | T | Starter |

## COACHING

McVay once again made a handful of changes to the team's coaching staff to reenergize his group and bring in fresh perspective. Offensive coordinator Liam Coen returned to the University of Kentucky and he was replaced by Mike LaFleur, who was let go by the New York Jets as that team's coordinator. Aubrey Pleasant returned as the defensive backs/passing game coordinator after being let go midway through the 2022 season in the same job for the Detroit Lions. Special-teams coordinator Joe DeCamillis was replaced with Chase Blackburn, the assistant special teams coach for the Tennessee Titans last season.

**RATING: 8**

## QUARTERBACKS

The Rams need to figure out a way to keep Matthew Stafford healthy after he missed the final eight games of last season with a bruised spinal cord. At 35-years old, the Texas native is closer to the end than the beginning when it comes to his football career. However, the 14-year veteran still has his fastball and if protected, Stafford remains one of the more dangerous quarterbacks in the game for creating explosive plays.

"I've been throwing with the guys a decent amount leading up to this," Stafford said, when asked about his health. "So, I feel good. I'm obviously going to do everything I can to try to be as healthy as I can at all times. I'm not probably a human jugs machine like I used to be, but I can still get it out there and throw it around a bunch. So, it'll be a process as it always is to try and stay as healthy as you possibly can at all times. I definitely feel like I can go out there and compete and do everything I want to do."

The Rams drafted fellow Georgia product Stetson Bennett to serve as Stafford's understudy. Los Angeles also signed Brett Rypien, who was with the Denver Broncos as Russell Wilson's backup last season.

**RATING: 7.5**

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

It says a lot about the commitment of head coach Sean McVey whose speculative TV contract offers were rumored to be significantly more than his listed $14 million annual deal in Los Angeles. Look for the now middle-aged genius to reinvent the Rams' offensive identity. ... One player expected to be involved much more is WR **Lance McCutcheon**, who led the NFL in preseason receiving. McCutcheon primarily played on special teams before a season-ending shoulder injury. However, he is expected to thrive in the wide-open attack. ... The same could be said for third-year WR **Ben Skowronek**, who also fell victim to injury late in the season. Skowronek has shown spurts of explosiveness and can play vertically on the outside. He is being counted on to provide consistency. ... The Rams will need contributions on the defensive side of the ball as well, if they are to get back to their championship contending ways. Despite a small-school pedigree, fourth-round pick, CB Cobie Durant, looks to be a prime-time player. The dynamic defender enjoyed a fabulous rookie season with three interceptions, including one pick-six. He has already proven to be one of the best steals of the 2022 draft.

## RUNNING BACKS

After sitting out part of last season due to unhappiness with his role and nearly being traded, Cam Akers finally returned to his productive ways down the back stretch of the 2022 season. He led the NFL in rushing from Week 13 to the end of the regular season with 512 rushing yards, including at least 100 rushing yards in the final three games against the Broncos, Chargers and Seahawks. Kyren Williams, Ronnie Rivers and Zach Evans, a sixth-round selection, round out the depth chart.

**RATING: 7**

## ON THE HOT SEAT

**MATTHEW STAFFORD**

The Rams guaranteed $57 million in total compensation over the next two years to Stafford in March, so Los Angeles is riding with him as he attempts to return from a bruised spinal cord that cut short his 2022 campaign. When healthy, Stafford can still lead an offense, as he showed during L.A.'s Super Bowl run two years ago. However, Stafford dealt with issues surrounding his throwing arm that limited his practice time last year, and speculation percolated around the league that the Rams were shopping him. It's fair to question if Stafford can make it through a full season healthy, and what his plans are beyond 2023. Does Stafford still want to continue to play after this season, and do the Rams want that to be in Los Angeles?

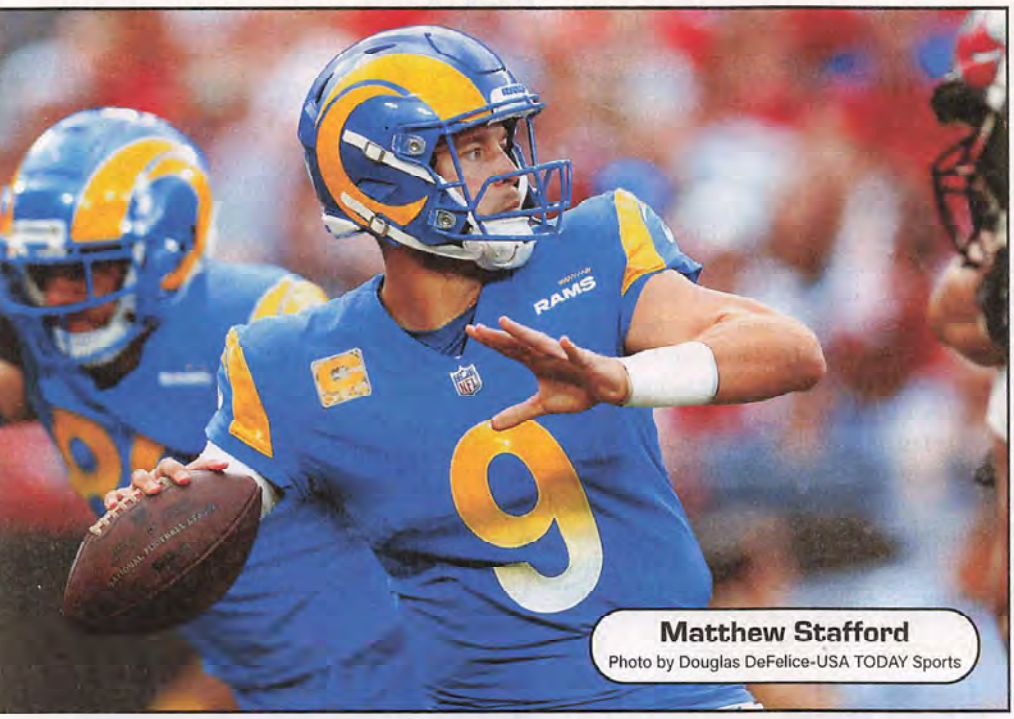
# RAMS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 87 | Allen, Davis (TE) | 6-6 | 245 | R | Clemson | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 LAR 23 | Totaled 39 catches for 443 receiving yards, five TDs in final season at Clemson. |
| 5 | Atwell, Tutu (RS) | 5-9 | 165 | 3 | Louisville | 13/4/1/3 | D2 21 | D2 LAR 21 | Finally flashed playmaking ability with 298 receiving yards and three TDs in 2022. |
| **89** | **Higbee, Tyler (TE)** | **6-6** | **255** | **8** | **Western Kentucky** | **17/17** | **D4 16** | **D4 LA 16** | **Grizzled, complete tight end when healthy, but is in the final year of his contract.** |
| 88 | Hopkins, Brycen (TE) | 6-4 | 245 | 4 | Purdue | 14/1/0/0 | D4 20 | D4 LAR 20 | Struggled to get consistent playing time and will battle to make the roster. |
| **12** | **Jefferson, Van** | **6-1** | **200** | **4** | **Florida** | **11/9/0/2** | **D2 20** | **D2 LAR 20** | **Missed six games with lingering knee issue, but stepped up late with Cooper Kupp out.** |
| **10** | ***Kupp, Cooper** | **6-2** | **208** | **7** | **Eastern Washington** | **9/9/0/0** | **D3 17** | **D3 LAR 17** | **On mend after season-ending tightrope ankle surgery. Expected to make full recovery.** |
| 84 | Long, Hunter (TE) | 6-5 | 253 | 3 | Boston College | 9/0/0/8 | T,MIA 23 | D3 MIA 21 | Part of trade to Dolphins for Jalen Ramsey; he should find role in L.A.'s offense. |
| 82 | McCutcheon, Lance | 6-3 | 202 | 2 | Montana State | 9/1/0/8 | CFA 22 | CFA LAR 22 | Montana State product made plays in preseason; gives Rams big body on the perimeter. |
| 17 | Nacua, Puka | 6-2 | 205 | R | Brigham Young | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 LAR 23 | Former team captain at BYU has a chance to earn a role as contributor in WR room. |
| **18** | **Skowronek, Ben** | **6-3** | **224** | **3** | **Notre Dame** | **14/11/0/3** | **D7 21** | **D7 LAR 21** | **Emerged as consistent playmaker in offense last season; even played some fullback.** |
| 81 | Trammell, Austin | 5-10 | 185 | 2 | Rice | 6/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA ATL 21 | Slot receiver with solid hands; spent time on practice squad/active roster in 2022. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 55 | Allen, Brian (C) | 6-2 | 303 | 6 | Michigan State | 7/7/0/10 | D4 18 | D4 LAR 18 | Starter at center missed nine games because of injuries; fighting for roster spot. |
| 72 | *Anchrum Jr., Tremayne (G) | 6-2 | 314 | 4 | Clemson | 2/1/0/0 | D7 20 | D7 LAR 20 | Suffered season-ending broken leg and had surgery; competing for job at guard. |
| 61 | Arcuri, A.J. (T) | 6-7 | 320 | 2 | Michigan State | 8/1/0/0 | FA 22 | D7 LAR 22 | Seventh-round pick played in eight games, including one rookie-season start. |
| **73** | **Avila, Steve (LG)** | **6-3** | **332** | **R** | **Texas Christian** | **0/0** | **D2 23** | **D2 LAR 23** | **Second-round pick in this year's draft penciled in to start at left guard.** |
| **60** | ***Bruss, Logan (RG)** | **6-5** | **309** | **2** | **Wisconsin** | **0/0/0/0** | **D3 22** | **D3 LAR 22** | **Suffered season-ending knee injury in camp; should compete for starting job at guard.** |
| **79** | **Havenstein, Rob (RT)** | **6-8** | **330** | **9** | **Wisconsin** | **17/17** | **D2 15** | **D2 STL 15** | **Only offensive lineman to start every game last season, playing 1,018 snaps.** |
| **77** | ***Jackson, Alaric (LT)** | **6-7** | **285** | **3** | **Iowa** | **8/6/0/1** | **CFA 21** | **CFA LAR 21** | **Earned role as starting LT due to injuries; likely opens as starter in training camp.** |
| 71 | McClendon, Warren (G/T) | 6-4 | 300 | R | Georgia | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 LAR 23 | Fifth-round selection out of Georgia provides depth up front as swing tackle. |
| 70 | *Noteboom, Joe (T) | 6-5 | 321 | 6 | Texas Christian | 6/6/0/0 | D3 18 | D3 LAR 18 | Replacement for Andrew Whitworth at LT, still recovering from Achilles injury. |
| **65** | **Shelton, Coleman (C)** | **6-4** | **299** | **5** | **Washington** | **13/13/0/0** | **FA 19** | **CFA SF 18** | **Battled through injuries last season; can play all three interior line positions.** |
| 57 | Thomas, Zachary (T) | 6-5 | 300 | 2 | San Diego State | 1/0/6/1 | FA 22 | D6 CHI 22 | On Bears' practice squad when Rams signed him to active roster in November for depth. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **3** | **Akers, Cam** | **5-10** | **217** | **3** | **Florida State** | **15/9/0/2** | **D2 20** | **D2 LAR 20** | **Led NFL in rushing last five games of regular season.** |
| 21 | Evans, Zach | 5-11 | 202 | R | Mississippi | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 LAR 23 | Sixth-round draft choice has chance to earn role as a complementary back. |
| 30 | Rivers, Ronnie | 5-9 | 195 | 2 | Fresno State | 8/1/1/1 | FA 22 | CFA ARIZ 22 | Utility player in the backfield who also contributed on special teams last year. |
| 23 | Williams, Kyren | 5-9 | 194 | 2 | Notre Dame | 10/0/0/0 | D5 22 | D5 LAR 22 | Earned a larger role in the offense last season as a hard runner. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Bennett, Stetson | 5-11 | 190 | R | Georgia | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 LAR 23 | Selected in fourth round of this year's draft as a developmental prospect. |
| 11 | Rypien, Brett | 6-2 | 202 | 4 | Boise State | 4/2/13/0 | FA 23 | CFA DEN 19 | Former backup in Denver joins team uncle Mark Rypien played for in St. Louis. |
| **9** | ***Stafford, Matthew** | **6-3** | **220** | **13** | **Georgia** | **9/9/0/2** | **T,LAR 21** | **D1 DET 09** | **Now healthy, he's looking for a bounce-back performance in 2023.** |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 95 | Brown III, Bobby (NT) | 6-4 | 324 | 3 | Texas A&M | 9/1/0/2 | D4 21 | D4 LAR 21 | With departure of A'Shawn Robinson, he will be counted on to fill the void. |
| 90 | Brown IV, Earnest (T) | 6-5 | 270 | 1 | Northwestern | 5/3/0/0 | FA 22 | D5 LAR 21 | Started three games and played 126 defensive snaps in 2022; had nine tackles. |
| **93** | **Copeland, Marquise (E)** | **6-2** | **287** | **3** | **Cincinnati** | **15/9/0/2** | **FA 23** | **CFA LAR 19** | **Earned time as a rotational player last season and has a chance to start in 2023.** |
| **99** | **Donald, Aaron (T)** | **6-1** | **280** | **10** | **Pittsburgh** | **11/11/0/6** | **D1 14** | **D1 STL 14** | **All-Pro missed six games with high-ankle sprain; healthy and ready to lead defense.** |
| 94 | Johnson, Desjuan (T) | 6-3 | 252 | R | Toledo | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 LAR 23 | Mr. Irrelevant; recorded 65 combined tackles and 5.5 sacks for the Rockets in 2022. |
| 52 | Murchison, Larrell (T) | 6-2 | 297 | 4 | North Carolina State | 8/0/0/1 | W,TENN 22 | D5 TENN 20 | Finished with two sacks after joining Rams late after being waived by Titans. |
| **91** | **Turner, Kobie (NT)** | **6-2** | **288** | **R** | **Wake Forest** | **0/0** | **D3 23** | **D3 LAR 23** | **Energetic defensive lineman should help generate interior pass rush.** |
| 92 | Williams, Jonah (E) | 6-5 | 275 | 3 | Weber State | 16/6/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA LAR 20 | Played in 16 games with six starts, recording 23 combined tackles in 2022. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 | Hampton, Nick (O) | 6-3 | 235 | R | Appalachian State | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 LAR 23 | Finished with seven sacks and three forced fumbles in nine starts last season. |
| **44** | **Hardy, Daniel (O)** | **6-3** | **240** | **2** | **Montana State** | **6/0/0/0** | **D7 22** | **D7 LAR 22** | **Has some pass-rush ability, but contributed mostly on special teams in 2022.** |
| **97** | **Hoecht, Michael (O)** | **6-4** | **310** | **3** | **Brown** | **17/0** | **FA 21** | **CFA LAR 20** | **Split time at DT/edge; had with 4.5 sacks. Expected to transition full-time to OLB.** |
| 35 | *Hummel, Jacob (I) | 6-1 | 230 | 2 | Iowa State | 7/0/0/0 | CFA 22 | CFA LAR 22 | Solid against the run; played 116 snaps on special teams last season. |
| **53** | **Jones, Ernest (I)** | **6-2** | **230** | **3** | **South Carolina** | **17/11** | **D3 21** | **D3 LAR 21** | **Totaled 114 tackles and with Bobby Wagner gone takes over as leader on defense.** |
| 32 | Mathis, Ochaun (O) | 6-5 | 260 | R | Nebraska | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 LAR 23 | Had 48 combined tackles, 3.5 sacks in one season at Nebraska after being at TCU. |
| **56** | **Rozeboom, Christian (I)** | **6-2** | **230** | **3** | **South Dakota State** | **17/0** | **FA 21** | **CFA LAR 20** | **A special-teams standout; has a chance to earn a larger role on defense.** |
| 96 | Thomas II, Keir (O) | 6-2 | 275 | 2 | Florida State | 8/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA LAR 22 | Split time on practice squad and the active roster his rookie season. |
| 0 | Young, Byron (O) | 6-2 | 250 | R | Tennessee | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 LAR 23 | Had 12 sacks in two seasons at Tennessee; potential replacement for Leonard Floyd. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **14** | **Durant, Cobie (CB)** | **5-11** | **180** | **2** | **South Carolina State** | **13/1/0/4** | **D4 22** | **D4 LAR 22** | **Had three interceptions, five pass breakups and a sack playing mostly slot defender.** |
| **4** | ***Fuller, Jordan (S)** | **6-2** | **203** | **4** | **Ohio State** | **3/1/0/1** | **D6 20** | **D6 LAR 20** | **Missed time last season with hamstring injury; will take on a larger leadership role.** |
| 22 | Jolly, Shaun (CB) | 5-9 | 180 | 2 | Appalachian State | 2/0/2/11 | FA 22 | CFA CLV 22 | Totaled three INTs and 15 PBUs in 2022; should compete for starting job. |
| **1** | **Kendrick, Derion (CB)** | **6-0** | **190** | **2** | **Georgia** | **15/6/0/2** | **D6 22** | **D6 LAR 22** | **Athletic corner signed off Browns practice squad in 2022; appeared in two games.** |
| **37** | **Lake, Quentin (S)** | **6-1** | **201** | **2** | **UCLA** | **9/0/0/0** | **D6 22** | **D6 LAR 22** | **L.A.'s top returning CB totaled 43 combined tackles and four pass breakups in 2022.** |
| 8 | Rochell, Robert (CB) | 6-2 | 195 | 3 | Central Arkansas | 17/0 | D4 21 | D4 LAR 21 | Son of ex-Steelers safety Carnell Lake; finished with 10 tackles his rookie season. |
| 25 | Taylor II, Jason (S) | 6-0 | 204 | R | Oklahoma State | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 LAR 23 | Rams like his range, length and physicality on the perimeter. |
| 6 | Tomlinson, Tre (CB) | 5-9 | 180 | R | Texas Christian | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 LAR 23 | Totaled 20 combined tackles and played 207 snaps on special teams in 2022. |
| 2 | Yeast II, Russ (S) | 5-10 | 195 | 2 | Kansas State | 13/1/0/4 | D7 22 | D7 LAR 22 | He should compete for time in L.A's wide-open competition in the secondary. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | Dunn, Christopher (K) | 5-8 | 175 | R | North Carolina State | 0/0 | CFA 23 | CFA LAR 23 | Lou Groza winner; made 28 of 29 field-goal tries and 2-of-2 from beyond 50 yards. |
| 42 | Evans, Ethan (P) | 6-3 | 231 | R | Wingate | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 LAR 23 | Late-round selection out of Division II Wingate, Evans averaged 45.7 yards per punt. |
| 47 | Ward, Alex (LS) | 6-4 | 240 | R | Central Florida | 0/0 | CFA 23 | CFA LAR 23 | Rookie replaces long snapper Matthew Orzech, who left for the Packers in free agency. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; SD=Supplemental Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Braxton Burmeister (San Diego State), Tyler Hudson (Louisville), Sam James (West Virginia), Xavier Smith (Florida A&M); TE Christian Sims (Bowling Green); RB Tiyon Evans (Louisville); G Sean Maginn (Wake Forest); C Mike McAllister (Youngstown State); QB Dresser Winn (Tennessee-Martin); DL T.J. Carter (1, Kentucky), Zach VanValkenburg (1, Iowa); LBs Kelechi Anyalebechi (Incarnate Word), Matthew Jester (Princeton), Ryan Smenda Jr. (Wake Forest), Deandre Square (Kentucky), Jaiden Woodbey (Boston College); CBs Timarcus Davis (Arizona State), Tyon Davis (Tulsa), Jordan Jones (Rhode Island), Cameron McCutcheon (Western Carolina); Ss Collin Duncan (Mississippi State), Tanner Ingle (North Carolina State), Quindell Johnson (Memphis), Richard LeCounte III (2, Georgia), Rashad Torrence (Florida); Ks Tanner Brown (Oklahoma State), Christopher Dunn (North Carolina State); LS Alex Ward (Central Florida)



**Matthew Stafford**
Photo by Douglas DeFelice-USA TODAY Sports

## RECEIVERS

After losing the 2021 triple crown receiving winner and NFL Offensive Player of the Year to a season-ending ankle injury, the Rams are hopeful Cooper Kupp can make a healthy return to the field this offseason. With Kupp unavailable, Van Jefferson played solid in his absence during the second half of last year and Tutu Atwell finally flashed some play-making ability. Ben Skowronek is a good utility player and tight end Tyler Higbee still has enough juice to create plays down the middle of the field, although the Rams could use a seam-stretcher at tight end with speed to get deep.

**RATING: 7.5**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

To say the offensive line is a work in progress for the Rams would be kind. The Rams started 14 different combinations in 2022, including five different players at right guard and four different players at left tackle. Right tackle Rob Havenstein was the only player on the offensive line to start every game. The Rams allowed 59 sacks last season, third-most in the NFL. The Rams selected Steve Avila in the second round, and he should be an immediate starter at left guard. Last year's third-round selection, guard Logan Bruss, and guard/tackle Tremayne Anchrum Jr. also return for the Rams from season-ending injuries.

**RATING: 6**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

All-Pro defensive tackle Aaron Donald returns after missing the final seven games of last season with a high-ankle sprain. However, the Rams lost starters Greg Gaines and A'Shawn Robinson in free agency.

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

**KEY ADDITION:**
**Mike LaFleur**

The Rams averaged 18.1 points per game and a league-worst 280.5 total yards last season. McVay still runs the show on offense, but the addition of LaFleur will hopefully bring a return to a more attacking, explosive offense.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**
TE Hunter Long, QB Brett Rypien

**KEY LOSS:**
**CB Jalen Ramsey (17/17)***
Ramsey had slipped in his ability to consistently lock down the best receivers, but he remained a tone-setter and galvanizing force on defense. The Rams will miss that energy and bulldog mentality.

**KEY LOSSES:**
G Oday Aboushi (15/4), T Chandler Brewer (6/4), RB Malcolm Brown (10/0), P Riley Dixon (17/0), G David Edwards (4/4), **LB Leonard Floyd (17/17)**, **DT Greg Gaines (16/12)**, K Matt Gay (17/0), S Jake Gervase (14/0), CB Grant Haley (4/1), WR Jacob Harris (7/0), **CB Troy Hill (12/12)**, LB Travin Howard (1/0), CB David Long Jr. (13/4), QB Baker Mayfield (5/4), T Ty Nsekhe (10/8), LS Matt Orzech (17/0), QB Bryce Perkins (5/1), TE Jared Pinkney (4/0), WR Brandon Powell (17/6), **S Taylor Rapp (16/16)**, WR Allen Robinson II (10/1), **DT A'Shawn Robinson (10/10)**, **S Nick Scott (16/16)**, C Matt Skura (9/8), **LB Bobby Wagner (17/17)**, QB John Wolford (3/3)*
**Total games played/started lost: 309/165**

**STARTERS RETURNING**
14; 11 offense, 3 defense

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS

CAM AKERS

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Matthew Stafford | 303 | 206 | 2087 | 10 | 8 |
| Baker Mayfield | 129 | 82 | 850 | 4 | 2 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cam Akers | 188 | 786 | 4.2 | 7 |
| Darrell Henderson Jr. | 70 | 283 | 4.0 | 3 |
| Kyren Williams | 35 | 139 | 4.0 | 0 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cooper Kupp | 75 | 812 | 10.8 | 6 |
| Tyler Higbee | 72 | 620 | 8.6 | 3 |
| Ben Skowronek | 39 | 376 | 9.6 | 0 |
| Van Jefferson | 24 | 369 | 15.4 | 3 |

**Kicking**: Gay 31/32 XPs, 28/30 FGs, 115 points
**Tackles**: Wagner 140, Jones 113, Rapp 92
**Sacks**: Floyd 9, Wagner 6, Donald 5
**INTs**: Ramsey 4, Durant 3, three tied with 2

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 280.5 | 32 |
| Passing Offense | 182.8 | 27 |
| Rushing Offense | 97.7 | T-27 |
| Points | 18.1 | T-26 |
| Sacked | 59 | 30 |
| 3rd Down % | 39.3 | 18 |

| Defense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Defense | 341.1 | 19 |
| Passing Defense | 226 | 21 |
| Rushing Defense | 115.1 | 13 |
| Points Allowed | 22.6 | T-21 |
| INTs | 16 | T-7 |
| Sacks | 38 | T-21 |
| Turnover Diff. | -1 | T-16 |

Marquise Copeland and Bobby Brown III are expected to fill the void, along with third-round selection Kobie Turner. Donald considered retirement after the Rams won the Super Bowl two years ago. He turned 32-years-old on May 23 and has a year left on his contract after the upcoming season. so the Rams need to start thinking about what their defense will look like without the future Hall of Famer.

"Aaron's motivated," McVay said about Donald in his preparation for this offseason "The greats elevate people around them. It's a very similar feeling in terms of that outside-in narrative when we first got here. So, we're just going to take it a day at a time, see if we can maximize every guy in this building. And I know those core guys that we've talked about are up for the challenge of not having to do anything other than be their best selves and that naturally elevates people around them."

**RATING: 8**

## LINEBACKERS

The Rams lost their most productive player on defense last season when the team mutually parted ways with linebacker Bobby Wagner and he returned to the Seattle Seahawks in free agency. So, it will be up to third-year pro Ernest Jones to step up and provide both production and leadership with Wagner gone. With Leonard Floyd no longer on the roster, the Rams will be looking for production at edge rusher from rookies like Byron Young and Nick Hampton, along with players currently on the roster in Daniel Hardy and Michael Hoecht.

**RATING: 6.5**

## SECONDARY

With Jalen Ramsey traded to the Miami Dolphins, along with safeties Taylor Rapp (Buffalo Bills) and Nick Scott (Cincinnati Bengals) signing with other teams in free agency, L.A.'s secondary will have a much different look in 2023. Versatile safety Jordan Fuller will take on a larger leadership role. Nickel defender Cobie Durant is the top returner in the defensive backfield and he had three interceptions last season and gives Los Angeles a play-maker in the back end. Derion Kendrick and Robert Rochell flashed potential at times last season, but must become more consistent.

**RATING: 7.5**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Rams lost their entire specialty group during the offseason. Pro-Bowl kicker Matt Gay signed with the Indianapolis Colts, while punter Riley Dixon inked a deal to return to the Denver Broncos and long snapper Matt Orzech latched on with the Green Bay Packers. Return man Brandon Powell signed with the Minnesota Vikings. Atwell could be an option as Powell's replacement. New special-teams coordinator Chase Blackburn will have a whole new group in 2023.

The Rams signed undrafted free-agent kicker and North Carolina State product Christopher Dunn and selected punter Ethan Evans in the seventh round. They also signed undrafted rookie long snapper Alex Ward out of Central Florida. It will be interesting to see how L.A.'s special teams operate with three rookies and improve during the offseason, with some expected growing pains during the first part of the regular season.

**RATING: 5**

## INTANGIBLES

While the Rams will roll out a much younger roster in 2023, they have one of most experienced coaching staffs to help guide those players for bigger roles this year. Coaches like defensive coordinator Raheem Morris, defensive line coach Eric Henderson, linebackers coach Chris Shula, receivers coach Eric Yarber, quarterbacks coach Zac Robinson and running backs coach Ron Gould should provide mentorship, structure and strong coaching fundamentals for McVay's green roster, helping them grow and develop quickly over the duration of the season.

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Field Level Media

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Time for the young guys: The Rams drafted a league-high 14 players and signed 26 more as undrafted rookies. But they lost 20 players in free agency as they work to get their salary cap more manageable.

2. Can McVay bounce back? He's only 37-years-old, but McVay didn't appear to take much joy out of last year's disappointing season. After having so much success in his first six years with the Rams, it will be interesting to see if McVay can get things turned around, and how long this remodeling process will take.

3. Defense will lean on Ernest Jones: The Rams will lean on Jones to help fill the defensive void. Jones said he learned how to be a pro daily from Bobby Wagner last season and is ready to take on more of a leadership role on the defense.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 5-12**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 8 | BUFFALO | 10-31 |
| Sept. 18 | ATLANTA | 31-27 |
| Sept. 25 | at Arizona | 20-12 |
| Oct. 3 | at San Francisco | 9-24 |
| Oct. 9 | DALLAS | 10-22 |
| Oct. 16 | CAROLINA | 24-10 |
| Oct. 30 | SAN FRANCISCO | 14-31 |
| Nov. 6 | at Tampa Bay | 13-16 |
| Nov. 13 | ARIZONA | 17-27 |
| Nov. 20 | at New Orleans | 20-27 |
| Nov. 27 | at Kansas City | 10-26 |
| Dec. 4 | SEATTLE | 23-27 |
| Dec. 8 | LAS VEGAS | 17-16 |
| Dec. 19 | at Green Bay | 12-24 |
| Dec. 25 | DENVER | 51-14 |
| Jan. 1 | at L.A. Chargers | 10-31 |
| Jan. 8 | at Seattle (OT) | 16-19 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Pacific**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 12 | L.A CHARGERS (Sat) | 6:00 |
| Aug. 19 | LAS VEAGS (Sat) | 6:00 |
| Aug. 26 | at Denver (Sat) | 6:00 |
| Sept. 10 | at Seattle | 1:25 |
| Sept. 17 | SAN FRANCISCO | 1:05 |
| Sept. 25 | at Cincinnati (Mon) | 5:15 |
| Oct. 1 | at Indianapolis | 10:00 |
| Oct. 8 | PHILADELPHIA | 1:05 |
| Oct. 15 | ARIZONA | 1:25 |
| Oct. 22 | PITTSBURGH | 1:05 |
| Oct. 29 | at Dallas | 10:00 |
| Nov. 5 | at Green Bay | 10:00 |
| | BYE | |
| Nov. 19 | SEATTLE | 1:25 |
| Nov. 26 | at Arizona | 1:05 |
| Dec. 3 | CLEVELAND | 1:25 |
| Dec. 10 | at Baltimore | 10:00 |
| Dec. 17 | WASHINGTON | 1:05 |
| Dec. 21 | NEW ORLEANS (Thu) | 5:15 |
| Dec. 31 | at N.Y. Giants | 10:00 |
| TBD | at San Francisco | TBD |

# SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

## Only the Quarterback Can Hold Back 49ers

The 49ers' offseason program was barely a week old when Aaron Rodgers, their one-time nemesis, finally got traded to the New York Jets. Preceding him out of the NFC picture, in recent months and seasons, were Tom Brady, Russell Wilson, Drew Brees, and, heck, even Jimmy Garoppolo.

Maybe Nick Bosa scared them all away. Bosa is the reigning NFL Defensive Player of the Year.

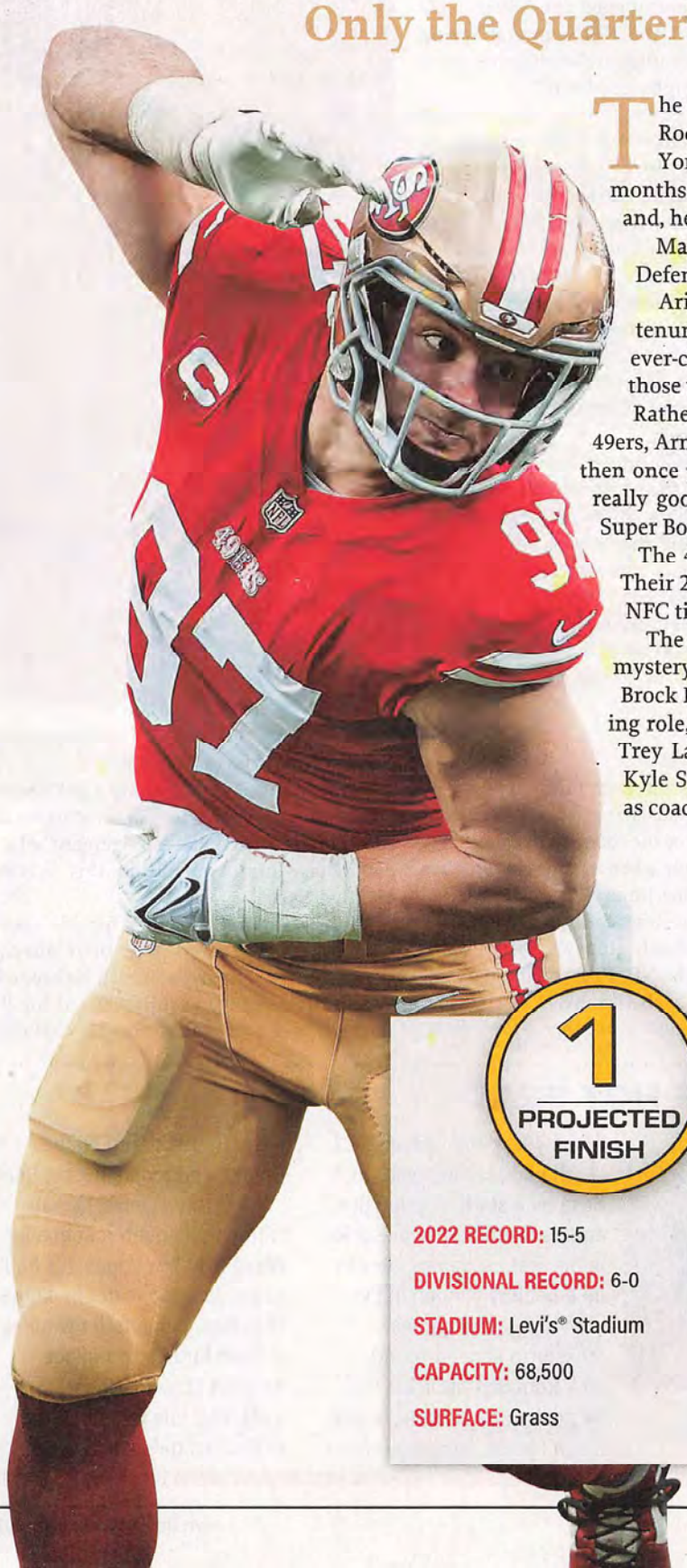
Arik Armstead, a nine-year veteran and the 49ers' longest-tenured player, didn't jump to conclusions in surveying the NFL's ever-changing quarterback landscape. "There's always going to be those teams that people are asleep on that pop up," Armstead said.

Rather than boastfully guarantee another playoff push by the 49ers, Armstead added: "In the offseason, a lot of teams get hyped up, then once you get to Weeks 10 and 11 and 12, then you see who the really good teams are, who's going to have a shot to compete for a Super Bowl."

The 49ers took their shot in three of the past four postseasons. Their 2019 squad fell in the Super Bowl, and heartbreak came with NFC title game defeats each of the past two seasons.

The 49ers still have their superstar core intact. Their biggest mystery: quarterback. No worries, right? Ha.

Brock Purdy's 2022 rookie heroics command an encore in the starting role, but only if his surgically repaired elbow cooperates. With Trey Lance and Sam Darnold in the bullpen, the 49ers can keep Kyle Shanahan's offensive machine rolling in his seventh season as coach.



**Nick Bosa**
Photo by Michael Owens via AP

**1**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 15-5

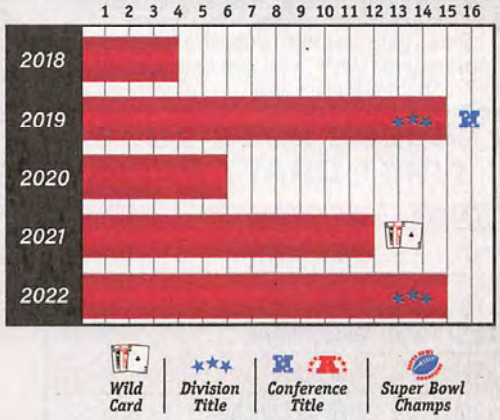
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 6-0

**STADIUM:** Levi's® Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 68,500

**SURFACE:** Grass

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

**SAP PERFORMANCE FACILITY**
**4949 MARIE P. DEBARTOLO WAY**
**SANTA CLARA, CA 95054**
**(408) 562-4949**
**WWW.49ERS.COM**

**TRAINING CAMP:** SAP Performance Facility, Santa Clara, CA
**HEAD COACH:** Kyle Shanahan
• 7th season as 49ers/NFL head coach
• 58-49 overall; 6-3 postseason
**OWNER/CO-CHAIRMEN:** Denise DeBartolo York, John York
**CEO:** Jed York
**GENERAL MANAGER:** John Lynch
**VP/SENIOR ADVISOR TO GM:** Keena Turner
**ASSISTANT GM:** Adam Peters
**DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Tariq Ahmad
**DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:** RJ Gillen

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Brian Griese | Quarterbacks | 2 | 2 |
| Klay Kubiak | Asst. quarterbacks | 3 | 3 |
| Klint Kubiak | Pass game specialist | 10 | 1 |
| Chris Foerster | &Offensive line | 31 | 9 |
| James Cregg | Assistant line | 8 | 2 |
| Joe Graves | Assistant line | 2 | 2 |
| Anthony Lynn | *Running backs | 24 | 2 |
| Robert Turner Jr. | Running backs | 28 | 7 |
| Leonard Hankerson | Receivers | 3 | 3 |
| Brian Fleury | Tight ends | 11 | 5 |
| Deuce Schwartz | Off. quality control | 7 | 2 |
| Asauni Rufus | Off. quality control | 2 | 2 |
| Steve Wilks | Defensive coordinator | 16 | 1 |
| Kris Kocurek | Defensive line | 15 | 5 |
| Darryl Tapp | Assistant line | 3 | 3 |
| Johnny Holland | Linebackers | 25 | 7 |
| Daniel Bullocks | Defensive backs | 8 | 7 |
| Andrew Hayes-Stoker | Asst. defensive backs | 12 | 3 |
| Nick Sorensen | #Nickel backs | 11 | 2 |
| Jacob Webster | Def. quality control | 1 | 1 |
| Cameron Brown | Def. quality control | 1 | 1 |
| Brian Schneider | Special teams coord. | 15 | 2 |
| Matthew Harper | Asst. special teams | 11 | 3 |
| August Mangin | @Spec. teams QC | 3 | 3 |
| Dustin Perry | Head S&C | 7 | 7 |
| Aaron Hill | Assistant S&C | 5 | 5 |
| Gregory Segrove | Assistant S&C | 3 | 3 |
| Jordan Nieuwsma | Assistant S&C | 1 | 1 |

& Off. run game coord. * Assistant head coach
# Def. pass game specialist & Off. run game coord.
* Assistant head coach # Def. pass game specialist
@ Game management specialist

## 49ERS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 2/61 | Drake Jackson | DE | Backup |
| 2021 | 1/3 | Trey Lance | QB | Backup |
| 2020 | 1/14 | Javon Kinlaw | DT | Starter |
| 2019 | 1/2 | Nick Bosa | DE | Starter |
| 2018 | 1/9 | Mike McGlinchey | T | Broncos |

## COACHING

Shanahan has produced three playoff trips in the past four seasons, winning twice before a heartbreaking loss each trophy hunt. Those near-misses only emboldened Shanahan's standing with 49ers ownership, which views him as a "special" coach.

"We've been in three NFC Championship Games and one Super Bowl in the last four years. That's a pretty good run," 49ers CEO Jed York said at the NFL's annual spring meeting. "It's not ultimately where we want to be, but it's a pretty good run."

Only Super Bowl-winning coaches Bill Walsh and George Seifert have more playoff victories in franchise history, with 10 apiece.

Again, Shanahan must adjust with new coordinators. This time, the Texans hired DeMeco Ryans as their coach after his two-season brilliance as the 49ers defensive coordinator, a role previously held by Robert Saleh (New York Jets head coach). Shanahan also lost pass-game coordinator Bobby Slowik to the Texans, a year after long-time confidant Mike McDaniel became the Dolphins coach.

Steve Wilks takes over as defensive coordinator. He finished last season 6-6 as the Carolina Panthers interim head coach, raising his profile that took a blow as the Arizona Cardinals one-and-done coach in 2018 (3-13 record). Brian Griese is coming off a tremendous debut season as a quarterbacks coach, having maximized a dizzying rotation and grooming Purdy for the spotlight.

**RATING: 8**

## QUARTERBACKS

Brock Purdy is the 49ers future unless Trey Lance revives his bid. Then again, Sam Darnold's third team could be the charm in his career.

It's never simple when it comes to the 49ers quarterback throne. Jimmy Garoppolo skipped town for Las Vegas after cashing out as a 42-19 Niners starter. Purdy, the 2022 draft's Mr. Irrelevant, took the NFL by storm upon replacing the injured-again Jimmy G last season. Purdy produced eight wins, then a torn elbow ligament early in the NFC Championship Game waylaid him and the 49ers.

Purdy avoided the "Tommy John" reconstruction and opted for an internal-brace repair of his ulnar collateral ligament, which could have him available in this season's opening weeks.

With a varying timeline for his recovery, though, the 49ers like their alternatives. Lance's right ankle, which he broke in Week 2 last year, was fully cleared for the start of offseason workouts. To challenge

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

No one maximized the most of their offensive parts better than head coach Kyle Shanahan. We know what WRs Deebo Samuel and Brandon Aiyuk can do when healthy. However, depth, injuries and consistency plagued the unit during various spurts of the season. Enter third-year WR **Jauan Jennings**, who saw spot duty in parts of last season. His big, physical presence provides QB **Brock Purdy** with another reliable possession target in addition to TE George Kittle. The more options Purdy has at his disposal, the more effective he can be. ... After a bumpy rookie season, G **Aaron Banks** was able to rewrite the script in Year 2, stepping in as a full-time starter. His rapid improvement has led to some within the organization who believe Banks could develop into an All-Pro player. ... San Francisco hired defensive coordinator Steve Wilks to replace DeMeco Ryans, who accepted the Texans head coaching job. Wilks brings nearly two decades of experience as a DB coach, which is great news for CB Samuel Womack III. The aggressive ball-hawk has provided glimpses of being a sly cover man in the slot. Look for a bump in interceptions during his second season in the pros.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

**DRAKE JACKSON**

The 49ers' top pick in 2022 should play opposite Nick Bosa as a starting defensive end. Jackson had three sacks in his first six games, only to be a healthy scratch in five of their final six games. Jackson, a second-round pick from Southern Cal, will be pushed by 2019 No. 4 pick Clelin Ferrell, plus veterans Kerry Hyder Jr. and Austin Bryant, and rookie Robert Beal.

After three sacks, he vanished until an interception in Week 17 at Las Vegas, his final game. Jackson is not in danger of getting cut, but the window is open for him to replace Samson Ebukam (Colts) in a starting role for one of the NFL's best defenses.

Christian McCaffrey
Photo by Bill Streicher-USA TODAY Sports

him for first-team reps and the starter/backup role, the 49ers hired another former No. 3 overall pick: Darnold, who spent his first three seasons with the Jets and the past two with the Panthers.

Stockpiling capable quarterbacks is the prudent move and they signed Brandon Allen after the draft. The 49ers can never again afford to run out of them with a Super Bowl on the line.

**RATING: 7**

## RUNNING BACKS

Trading for Christian McCaffrey last October paid immediate dividends. He became their offensive catalyst in the final 14 games including the post-season (984 rushing yards, 565 receiving yards, 14 touchdowns, including a TD pass). The 2023 season won't mean No. 23 becomes a solo artist. Frank Gore, the 49ers' all-time leading rusher, envisions McCaffrey flourishing in a backfield tandem with Elijah Mitchell, assuming that duo shakes their injury history. Jordan Mason and Ty Davis-Price are coming off contrasting rookie seasons. Not to be forgotten are Pro-Bowl fullback Kyle Juszczyk and the occasional carries for "wide back" Deebo Samuel.

**RATING: 9**

## RECEIVERS

Samuel, Brandon Aiyuk and tight end George Kittle comprise one of the NFL's best trios to target, but they combined for only one touchdown catch in three playoff games last season. While Samuel's production dipped overall, his physical nature and big-play ability remain intimidating. Aiyuk delivered his first 1,000-yard campaign last season. Kittle returned to healthy, All-Pro form by scoring 11 touchdowns, including seven as Purdy's most trusted weapon. Jauan Jennings is a third-down stud, Ray-Ray McCloud flashes in the slot (as does McCaffrey), and Danny Gray is coming off a one-catch rookie year. Rookie Cam Latu could be an upgrade as Kittle's understudy over Ross Dwelley and Charlie Woerner. The 49ers' ever-changing receiving corps looks to have its most stable and potent unit in Shanahan's tenure.

**RATING: 8**

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

**KEY ADDITION:**
**DT Javon Hargrave**
Poaching Hargrave from the Eagles came at a steep cost (four years, $84 million). Hargrave is coming off a career-high 11 sacks. That interior pass rush must reestablish the 49ers' defensive front as elite.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**
DE Austin Bryant, WR Chris Conley, QB Sam Darnold, G Jon Feliciano, DE Clelin Ferrell, K Zane Gonzalez, S Myles Hartsfield, CB Isaiah Oliver, T Matt Pryor, WR Willie Snead IV

**KEY LOSS**
**QB Jimmy Garoppolo (11/10)***
His 5 1/2-season tenure was best known for victories (42 in 61 games) and injuries (ACL, ankle, calf, thumb, shoulder, foot). Garoppolo, with a photogenic face and charming smile, rallied teammates with competitive, on-field fire.

**OTHER LOSSES:**
**LB Azeez Al-Shaair (12/9)**, G/C Daniel Brunskill (14/2), **DE Samson Ebukam (15/15)**, K Robbie Gould (17/0), DT Maurice Hurst (0/0), QB Josh Johnson (2/0), TE Tyler Kroft (11/4), TE Jordan Matthews (0/0), **T Mike McGlinchey (17/17)**, S Tarvarius Moore (13/0), CB Emmanuel Moseley (5/5), DE Charles Omenihu (17/3), DT Hassan Ridgeway (12/7), CB Jason Verrett (0/0), CB Jimmie Ward (12/5), DE Jordan Willis (9/0)*
**Total games played/started lost: 167/77**

**STARTERS RETURNING**
18: 9 offense, 9 defense, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS

FRED WARNER

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jimmy Garoppolo | 308 | 207 | 2437 | 16 | 4 |
| Brock Purdy | 170 | 114 | 1374 | 13 | 4 |
| **Rushing** | **Att** | | **Yds** | **Avg** | **TD** |
| Christian McCaffrey | 159 | | 746 | 4.7 | 6 |
| Jeff Wilson | 92 | | 468 | 5.1 | 2 |
| Elijah Mitchell | 45 | | 279 | 6.2 | 2 |
| **Receiving** | **Rec** | | **Yds** | **Avg** | **TD** |
| Brandon Aiyuk | 78 | | 1015 | 13 | 8 |
| George Kittle | 60 | | 765 | 12.8 | 11 |
| Deebo Samuel | 56 | | 632 | 11.3 | 2 |
| Christian McCaffrey | 52 | | 464 | 8.9 | 4 |

**Kicking:** Gould 50/51 XPs, 27/32 FGs, 131 points
**Tackles:** Warner 130, Greenlaw 127, Hufanga 95
**Sacks:** Bosa 18.5, Ebukam 5, Omenihu 4.5
**INTs:** Gipson 5, Hufanga 4, Ward 3

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 365.6 | 5 |
| Passing Offense | 226.8 | 13 |
| Rushing Offense | 138.8 | 8 |
| Points | 26.5 | 6 |
| Sacked | 31 | 6 |
| 3rd Down % | 45 | 6 |
| **Defense** | | |
| Total Defense | 300.6 | 1 |
| Passing Defense | 222.9 | 20 |
| Rushing Defense | 77.7 | 2 |
| Points Allowed | 16.3 | 1 |
| INTs | 20 | T-1 |
| Sacks | 44 | T-10 |
| Turnover Diff. | +13 | 1 |

# 49ers PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **11** | **Aiyuk, Brandon** | **6-0** | **200** | **4** | **Arizona State** | **17/17** | **D1 20** | **D1 SF 20** | **Went from Shanahan's doghouse to the receiving corps' penthouse (1,015 yards in '22).** |
| 10 | Bell, Ronnie | 6-0 | 190 | R | Michigan | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 SF 23 | Rebounded from ACL tear to lead Michigan in catches (62); could be return specialist. |
| 17 | Conley, Chris | 6-3 | 205 | 9 | Georgia | 11/2/0/1 | UFA,TENN 23 | D3 KC 15 | This is fifth team in nine-year career (217 catches, 2,853 yards, 15 TDs, 109 games). |
| 82 | Dwelley, Ross (TE) | 6-5 | 235 | 6 | San Diego | 12/0/0/5 | FA 18 | CFA SF 18 | Great hands, but totaled only seven catches past two seasons after 34 from 2019-20. |
| 6 | Gray, Danny | 6-0 | 200 | 2 | Southern Methodist | 13/0/1/3 | D3 22 | D3 SF 22 | Speedster had only one catch on seven targets amid rookie-season learning curve. |
| 15 | Jennings, Jauan | 6-3 | 212 | 3 | Tennessee | 16/4/0/1 | FA 21 | D7 SF 20 | The feisty "Third-and-Jauan" has 59 receptions, 29 on third down to move the chains. |
| 88 | Johnson Jr., Tyron | 6-0 | 200 | 4 | Oklahoma State | 5/2/2/0 | FA 23 | CFA HOUS 19 | Totaled three TDs, 23 catches through stints with Texans, Chargers, Jaguars, Raiders. |
| **85** | **Kittle, George (TE)** | **6-4** | **250** | **7** | **Iowa** | **15/15/0/2** | **D5 17** | **D5 SF 17** | **Of career-high 11 touchdowns, seven came with QB Purdy; one TD in nine playoff games.** |
| 81 | Latu, Cameron (TE) | 6-5 | 244 | R | Alabama | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 SF 23 | Converted from linebacker to dual-threat tight end after his first year at Alabama. |
| 3 | McCloud III, Ray-Ray (RS) | 5-9 | 190 | 6 | Clemson | 17/2 | UFA,PITT 22 | D6 BUFF 18 | Averaged 10.8 yards as a punt returner; had only 14 catches in first year with 49ers. |
| **19** | **Samuel, Deebo** | **6-0** | **215** | **5** | **South Carolina** | **13/12/0/4** | **D2 19** | **D2 SF 19** | **Scored only five touchdowns in 2022 after 14 prior year in wide-back contract push.** |
| 83 | Snead IV, Willie | 5-11 | 195 | 8 | Ball State | 4/0/1/0 | FA 23 | CFA CLV 14 | Slot-type receiver came off 49ers practice squad for four-game cameo last season. |
| 9 | Willis, Brayden (TE) | 6-4 | 240 | R | Oklahoma | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 SF 23 | Led Oklahoma with seven touchdown receptions; eyes Kittle as his perfect mentor. |
| 89 | Woerner, Charlie (TE) | 6-5 | 241 | 4 | Georgia | 17/2 | D6 20 | D6 SF 20 | Special-teams stalwart; had no catches in 2022 with sparse use as blocking tight end. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **65** | **Banks, Aaron (LG)** | **6-5** | **325** | **3** | **Notre Dame** | **16/16/0/1** | **D2 21** | **D2 SF 21** | **Looks like long-term left guard after pleasantly surprising in first year as starter.** |
| **64** | **Brendel, Jake (C)** | **6-4** | **299** | **6** | **UCLA** | **17/17** | **FA 21** | **CFA DALL 16** | **Capably replaced Alex Mack in first full season as a starting center amid QB shuffle.** |
| **74** | **Burford, Spencer (RG)** | **6-4** | **300** | **2** | **Texas-San Antonio** | **16/16/0/1** | **D4 22** | **D4 SF 22** | **Started at right guard as rookie; fourth-round gem from Texas-San Antonio.** |
| 55 | Feliciano, Jon (G) | 6-4 | 325 | 9 | Miami | 15/15/1/1 | UFA,NYG 23 | D4 OAK 15 | Brings interior versatility via 54 starts in 97 games with Raiders, Bills, Giants. |
| **68** | **McKivitz, Colton (RT)** | **6-6** | **301** | **4** | **West Virginia** | **13/1/0/0** | **FA 21** | **D5 SF 20** | **Should replace Mike McGlinchey at right tackle; five fill-in starts past three years.** |
| 76 | Moore, Jaylon (T) | 6-4 | 311 | 3 | Western Michigan | 17/2 | D5 21 | D5 SF 21 | Needs to show more urgency, technique after two seasons with five fill-in starts. |
| 75 | Pryor, Matt (G) | 6-7 | 332 | 6 | Texas Christian | 16/9/0/1 | UFA,IND 23 | D6 PHA 18 | Figures to compete as swing tackle, but has made 24 career starts with Eagles, Colts. |
| **71** | **Williams, Trent (LT)** | **6-5** | **320** | **13** | **Oklahoma** | **14/14/0/3** | **T,WSH 20** | **D1 WSH 10** | **NFL's best lineman not ready to retire after repeating as All-Pro, 10th Pro Bowl.** |
| 63 | Zakelj, Nick (G) | 6-6 | 316 | 2 | Fordham | 5/0/0/12 | D6 22 | D6 SF 22 | Rookie roommates with Purdy is interior lineman who's worked on strength, explosion. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 32 | Davis-Price, Tyrion | 6-1 | 219 | 2 | Louisiana State | 6/0/3/8 | D3 22 | D3 SF 22 | He ran for only 99 yards in six games while buried on depth chart as rookie. |
| **44** | **Juszczyk, Kyle (FB)** | **6-1** | **235** | **10** | **Harvard** | **16/12/0/1** | **UFA,BLT 17** | **D4 ATL 13** | **Perennial Pro-Bowl fullback caught Brock Purdy's first career touchdown pass.** |
| 24 | Mason, Jordan | 5-11 | 223 | 2 | Georgia Tech | 16/0/0/1 | CFA 22 | CFA SF 22 | Hard-charging style helped 49ers close out wins as undrafted rookie (6.0 yards per carry). |
| **23** | **McCaffrey, Christian** | **5-11** | **205** | **7** | **Stanford** | **17/16** | **T,CARO 22** | **D1 CARO 17** | **Offensive catalyst meshed perfectly in Shanahan system upon trade from Carolina.** |
| 25 | Mitchell, Elijah | 5-10 | 200 | 3 | Louisiana-Lafayette | 5/1/0/0 | D6 21 | D6 SF 21 | Injuries have pockmarked his two seasons, but should be McCaffrey's top backup. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| | Allen, Brandon | 6-2 | 209 | 7 | Arkansas | 1/0/15/0 | FA 23 | D6 JAX 16 | Hired as an extra arm; familiar with the scheme via time with Rams, Broncos, Bengals. |
| 14 | Darnold, Sam | 6-3 | 225 | 6 | Southern Cal | 6/6/1/1 | UFA,CARO 23 | D1 NYJ 18 | Ex-Jets and Panthers QB is only 26-years-old with 55 career starts (21-34). |
| 5 | *Lance, Trey | 6-4 | 224 | 3 | North Dakota State | 2/2/0/0 | D1 21 | D1 SF 21 | The 2021 draft's No. 3 pick has totaled 102 passes, four starts, one fractured ankle. |
| **13** | **Purdy, Brock** | **6-1** | **220** | **2** | **Iowa State** | **9/5/6/2** | **D7 22** | **D7 SF 22** | **Elbow surgery could delay encore from his rookie stardom as draft's "Mr. Irrelevant."** |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **91** | **Armstead, Arik (T)** | **6-7** | **290** | **9** | **Oregon** | **9/9/0/8** | **D1 15** | **D1 SF 15** | **Ninth-year veteran is longest-tenured Niner; no sacks, missed eight games last season.** |
| 33 | Beal Jr., Robert (E) | 6-4 | 250 | R | Georgia | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 SF 23 | Edge rusher's 2-yard burst off the line won over 49ers after six years at Georgia. |
| **97** | **Bosa, Nick (E)** | **6-4** | **266** | **5** | **Ohio State** | **16/16/0/1** | **D1 19** | **D1 SF 19** | **Reigning NFL Defensive Player of Year tallied 18.5 sacks last year; none in playoffs.** |
| 56 | Bryant, Austin (E) | 6-5 | 250 | 5 | Clemson | 9/0/0/8 | UFA,DET 23 | D4 DET 19 | After four sacks in four seasons with Lions, he looks to join elite unit's rotation. |
| 93 | *Davis, Kalia (T) | 6-2 | 310 | 1 | Central Florida | 0/0/0/0 | D6 22 | D6 SF 22 | Spent 2022 recovering from ACL tear; moved from linebacker to defensive line at UCF. |
| 94 | Ferrell, Clelin (E) | 6-4 | 265 | 5 | Clemson | 16/4/0/1 | UFA,LV 23 | D1 OAK 19 | Potential starter was No. 4 pick in 2019; had 10 sacks in four years with Raiders. |
| 90 | Givens, Kevin (T) | 6-1 | 285 | 4 | Penn State | 13/11/0/4 | FA 19 | CFA SF 19 | Rotational player developed into fill-in starter with stout run defense last season. |
| **98** | **Hargrave, Javon (T)** | **6-2** | **305** | **8** | **South Carolina State** | **17/17** | **UFA,PHA 23** | **D3 PITT 16** | **Offseason prize cashed out from Eagles after career-high 11 sacks in 2022.** |
| 92 | Hyder Jr., Kerry (E) | 6-2 | 275 | 8 | Texas Tech | 16/1/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA NYJ 14 | Versatile veteran's annual sack totals: 0-8-1-1-8.5-1.5-1. So he's due for 8-plus? |
| **95** | **Jackson, Drake (E)** | **6-4** | **273** | **2** | **Southern Cal** | **15/0/0/2** | **D2 22** | **D2 SF 22** | **Should seize bigger role after fading down stretch in three-sack rookie season.** |
| 99 | Kinlaw, Javon (T) | 6-5 | 319 | 4 | South Carolina | 6/6/0/2 | D1 20 | D1 SF 20 | Reverts to reserve role after knee trouble limited him to six games in 2022. |
| 96 | McGill, T.Y. (T) | 6-0 | 295 | 7 | North Carolina State | 9/0/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA SEA 15 | Played 31 percent of defensive snaps to help 49ers' injury-ravaged front. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **48** | **Burks, Oren (O)** | **6-3** | **233** | **6** | **Vanderbilt** | **17/3** | **UFA,GB 22** | **D3 GB 18** | **Ditched Packers last year to serve as 49ers' special-teams ace and their NFLPA rep.** |
| 45 | Flannigan-Fowles, Demetrius (O) | 6-2 | 223 | 4 | Arizona | 17/0 | FA 23 | CFA SF 19 | Faces his best shot to move from special teams into part-time linebacker duty. |
| 50 | Graham, Jalen (O) | 6-3 | 220 | R | Purdue | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 SF 23 | Can he bring last-pick magic as Purdy did? Ran 40 in 4.64 seconds at Combine. |
| **57** | **Greenlaw, Dre (I)** | **6-0** | **230** | **5** | **Arkansas** | **15/15/0/2** | **D5 19** | **D5 SF 19** | **Blossomed into bonafide star last year; got Tom Brady to sign his interception ball.** |
| 59 | Robinson, Curtis (O) | 6-3 | 235 | 3 | Stanford | 3/0/0/6 | FA 23 | CFA DEN 21 | Saw special-teams action in only three games last season after short-term IR stint. |
| **54** | **Warner, Fred (I)** | **6-3** | **230** | **6** | **Brigham Young** | **17/17** | **D3 18** | **D3 SF 18** | **Fiery captain reclaimed All-Pro, Pro-Bowl status in 2022 with team-high 130 tackles.** |
| 53 | Winters, Dee (M) | 5-11 | 227 | R | Texas Christian | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 SF 23 | Starred in TCU playoff win. Wants to mimic Fred Warner; has Dre Greenlaw suddenness. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 | Brown, Ji'Ayir (S) | 5-11 | 202 | R | Penn State | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 SF 23 | Niners climbed to No. 87 to draft Rose Bowl defensive MVP as future starting safety. |
| **31** | **Gipson Sr., Tashaun (S)** | **6-1** | **212** | **11** | **Wyoming** | **17/17** | **FA 22** | **CFA CLV 12** | **Will be 33 as he looks to recreate 2022 chemistry in safety tandem before retiring.** |
| 38 | Hartsfield, Myles (S) | 5-11 | 210 | 4 | Mississippi | 15/10/0/2 | FA 23 | CFA CARO 20 | Versatility and knowledge of coordinator Steve Wilks' wishes bolster roster stock. |
| **29** | **Hufanga, Talanoa (S)** | **6-0** | **200** | **3** | **Southern Cal** | **17/17** | **D5 21** | **D5 SF 21** | **Hot start last season (4 INTs in first 9 games) catapulted safety to All-Pro honors.** |
| **2** | **Lenoir, Deommodore (CB)** | **5-10** | **200** | **3** | **Oregon** | **17/13** | **D5 21** | **D5 SF 21** | **May entrench himself in starting role if momentum carries over from late last season.** |
| 28 | Luter Jr., Darrell (CB) | 6-0 | 190 | R | South Alabama | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 SF 23 | Versatility, maturity shined as he progressed from Pearl River CC to South Alabama. |
| 30 | Odum, George (S) | 6-1 | 202 | 6 | Central Arkansas | 17/0 | UFA,IND 22 | CFA IND 18 | Arguably NFL's best special-teams cover man had team-high 21 tackles last year. |
| 22 | Oliver, Isaiah (CB) | 6-0 | 202 | 6 | Colorado | 12/5/0/0 | UFA,ATL 23 | D2 ATL 18 | Signed away from Falcons to fill nickel-back role previously filled by Jimmie Ward. |
| 20 | Thomas, Ambry (CB/RS) | 6-0 | 190 | 3 | Michigan | 15/0/1/1 | D3 21 | D3 SF 21 | Relegated to bench-warming duties last season despite starting at end of rookie year. |
| **7** | **Ward, Charvarius (CB)** | **6-1** | **196** | **6** | **Middle Tennessee** | **17/17** | **UFA,KC 22** | **CFA DALL 18** | **Came last year from the Chiefs; quickly proved himself as savvy, confident veteran.** |
| 26 | Womack III, Samuel (CB) | 5-10 | 189 | 2 | Toledo | 16/1/0/1 | D5 22 | D5 PITT 22 | Impressed on special teams last year after early-season role as rookie nickel back. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | *Gonzalez, Zane (K) | 6-0 | 200 | 7 | Arizona State | 0/0/0/0 | T,CARO 23 | D7 CLV 17 | Quadriceps injury doomed Panthers tenure; will be hard-pressed to beat out Moody. |
| 4 | Moody, Jake (K) | 6-1 | 210 | R | Michigan | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 SF 23 | Michigan's all-time leading scorer came with the "necessary" pick at No. 99, Round 3. |
| 46 | Pepper, Taybor (LS) | 6-4 | 245 | 6 | Michigan State | 17/0 | FA 19 | FA GB 17 | Steady snapper enters fourth season with 49ers after journeyman start to NFL career. |
| 18 | Wishnowsky, Mitch (P) | 6-2 | 220 | 5 | Utah | 17/0 | D4 19 | D4 SF 19 | Career-high 32 (of 61) punts pinned opponents inside their 20-yard line last year. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Tay Martin (1, Oklahoma), Dazz Newsome (1, North Carolina), Isaiah Winstead (East Carolina), Shae Wyatt (Tulane); Ts Alfredo Gutierrez (1, None), Leroy Watson (1, Texas-San Antonio); Cs Keith Ismael (3, San Diego State), Jason Poe (1, Mercer); OL Joey Fisher (Shepherd), Corey Luciano (Washington), Ilm Manning (Hawaii); RBs Ronald Awalt (Texas-El Paso), Khalan Laborn (Marshall); FB Jack Colletto (Oregon State); DE Alex Barrett (2, San Diego State); DL Spencer Waege (North Dakota State); LBs Marcelino McCrary-Ball (1, Indiana), Mariano Sori-Marin (Minnesota); CBs D'Shawn Jamison (Texas), Qwuantrezz Knight (1, UCLA), AJ Parker (2, Kansas State), Tre Swilling (1, Georgia Tech); Ss Tayler Hawkins (1, San Diego State), Avery Young (Rutgers)

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Left tackle Trent Williams dismissed retirement talk to remain the line's anchor after his second straight All-Pro season. The biggest question is how they replace right tackle Mike McGlinchey, and look for Colton McKivitz to get first crack thanks to what he's shown in three seasons as a fill-in starter. Continuity exists on the interior with center Jake Brendel and guards Aaron Banks and Spencer Burford. The line improved and somewhat impressed last season. Matt Pryor and Jaylon Moore could be top reserves.

**RATING: 7.5**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

This is the engine that moves the 49ers up the NFL hill and, even though Nick Bosa won NFL Defensive Player of the Year honors last season, upgrading the unit was the 49ers' top offseason priority. That is why they splurged to poach defensive tackle Javon Hargrave from the Philadelphia Eagles. Hargrave and Arik Armstead will start on the interior, with 2020 first-round pick Javon Kinlaw mixing into the nine-man rotation. Bosa's career-high 18.5 sacks put him in line for a record-setting extension, despite the fact he did not record a sack in the playoffs. The 49ers hope 2022 top pick Drake Jackson can rally to start at the other defensive end spot, or they could turn to veterans Clelin Ferrell, Kelly Hyder Jr. or Austin Bryant.

**RATING: 9**

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Quarterback carousel. The 49ers have required three starting quarterbacks in each of the past six seasons except in Jimmy Garoppolo's 2019 full-slate comeback. So Brock Purdy's elbow repair may not be their only injury issue going forth. Trey Lance and Sam Darnold are capably waiting in the wings.

2. Run dominance. Not only has a top-five rushing attack led the 49ers to three playoff berths the past four years, their run defense is also elite. The 49ers did not allow a 100-yard rusher last season while yielding the second-fewest yards (14 more than the Titans).

3. Bosa's encore. Nick Bosa was the third player in 49ers history to win NFL Defensive Player of the Year honors, following Deion Sanders (1994) and Dana Stubblefield (1997). Can Bosa repeat like Lawrence Taylor (1981-82), J.J. Watt (2014-15) and Aaron Donald (2017-18)?

## LINEBACKERS

Two-time All-Pro Fred Warner pairs with Dre Greenlaw to form the NFL's best tandem, reminiscent of the 49ers' Patrick Willis and NaVorro Bowman duo from a decade ago. They did lose their biggest champion in DeMeco Ryans, who coached linebackers and was the 2021-22 defensive coordinator before becoming the Texans coach. Also gone is strong-side linebacker Azeez Al-Shaair (Titans), so they'll have to fill that part-time role, and incumbent options are Demetrius Flannigan-Fowles, Oren Burks, Curtis Robinson and Marcelino McCrary-Ball.

**RATING: 8.5**

## SECONDARY

After drawing a league-high 32 defensive pass-interference penalties in 2021, the 49ers cut that total to just six last season, and that reflected the improvement across their secondary. Talanoa Hufanga made All-Pro in just his second season, flourishing next to Tashaun Gipson Sr. That safety tandem could change if 2023 top draft pick, Ji'Ayir Brown, unseats Gipson. Charvarius Ward, last year's prized free-agent signing, anchors a cornerback corps that hopes Deommodore Lenoir can continue his ascent. Isaiah Oliver left the Falcons to fill the nickel-back role that Jimmie Ward reluctantly played last season. Ward, after nine seasons with the 49ers, fled with others to the Texans. This unit will be targeted again by last season's playoff foes: Jalen Hurts, Dak Prescott and Geno Smith.

**RATING: 7.5**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Drafting kicker Jake Moody with a third-round pick may be a gamble, but a similar move paid off in 1994, when they won their last Super Bowl and employed a rookie kicker, Doug Brien, also a third-round choice. Robbie Gould leaves big shoes (or shoe) to fill after six seasons, from his 100-percent accuracy in playoff games to moonlighting as their kickoff specialist. Punter Mitch Wishnowsky and long snapper Taybor Pepper return. Return specialist Ray-Ray McCloud III averaged a career-best 10.8 yards per punt return last season, and although he fumbled twice, he did not lose either. Geoge Odum is one of the NFL's best special-teams aces.

**RATING: 7**

## INTANGIBLES

Nine road trips include five in the Eastern Time Zone (Philadelphia, Washington, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Jacksonville), so the 49ers figure to again require a layover between at least two of those road games. They've won 11-of-14 ET visits since 2019, excluding playoffs.

**RATING: Minus-1**

— Cam Inman

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 15-5**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | at Chicago | 10-19 |
| Sept. 18 | SEATTLE | 27-7 |
| Sept. 25 | at Denver | 10-11 |
| Oct. 3 | L.A. RAMS | 24-9 |
| Oct. 9 | at Carolina | 37-15 |
| Oct. 16 | at Atlanta | 14-28 |
| Oct. 23 | KANSAS CITY | 23-44 |
| Oct. 30 | at L.A. Rams | 31-14 |
| Nov. 13 | L.A. CHARGERS | 22-16 |
| Nov. 21 | at Arizona | 38-10 |
| Nov. 27 | NEW ORLEANS | 13-0 |
| Dec. 4 | MIAMI | 33-17 |
| Dec. 11 | TAMPA BAY | 35-7 |
| Dec. 15 | at Seattle | 21-13 |
| Dec. 24 | WASHINGTON | 37-20 |
| Jan. 1 | at Las Vegas (OT) | 37-34 |
| Jan. 8 | ARIZONA | 38-13 |
| Jan. 14 | SEATTLE (Sat) | 41-23 |
| Jan. 22 | DALLAS | 19-12 |
| Jan. 29 | at Philadelphia | 7-31 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Pacific**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | at Las Vegas | TBD |
| Aug. 17-21 | DENVER | TBD |
| Aug. 24-27 | L.A. CHARGERS | TBD |
| Sept. 10 | at Pittsburgh | 10:00 |
| Sept. 17 | at L.A. Rams | 1:05 |
| Sept. 21 | N.Y. GIANTS (Thu) | 5:15 |
| Oct. 1 | ARIZONA | 1:25 |
| Oct. 8 | DALLAS | 5:20 |
| Oct. 15 | at Cleveland | 10:00 |
| Oct. 23 | at Minnesota (Mon) | 5:15 |
| Oct. 29 | CINCINNATI | 1:25 |
| | BYE | |
| Nov. 12 | at Jacksonville | 10:00 |
| Nov. 19 | TAMPA BAY | 1:05 |
| Nov. 23 | at Seattle (Thu) | 5:20 |
| Dec. 3 | at Philadelphia | 1:25 |
| Dec. 10 | SEATTLE | 1:05 |
| Dec. 17 | at Arizona | 1:05 |
| Dec. 25 | BALTIMORE (Mon) | 5:15 |
| Dec. 31 | at Washington | 10:00 |
| TBD | L.A. RAMS | TBD |

# SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

## Comeback Player Smith Fuels Seahawks Rebirth

Few believed it a year ago when, following Seattle's stunning trade of Russell Wilson to Denver, head coach Pete Carroll insisted the Seahawks were not entering a lengthy rebuilding process.

It just seemed hard to fathom that the Seahawks could contend for anything without Wilson, as well as middle linebacker Bobby Wagner who had been released and signed with the rival Rams.

Especially when they made no major move at quarterback, turning the job over to Geno Smith.

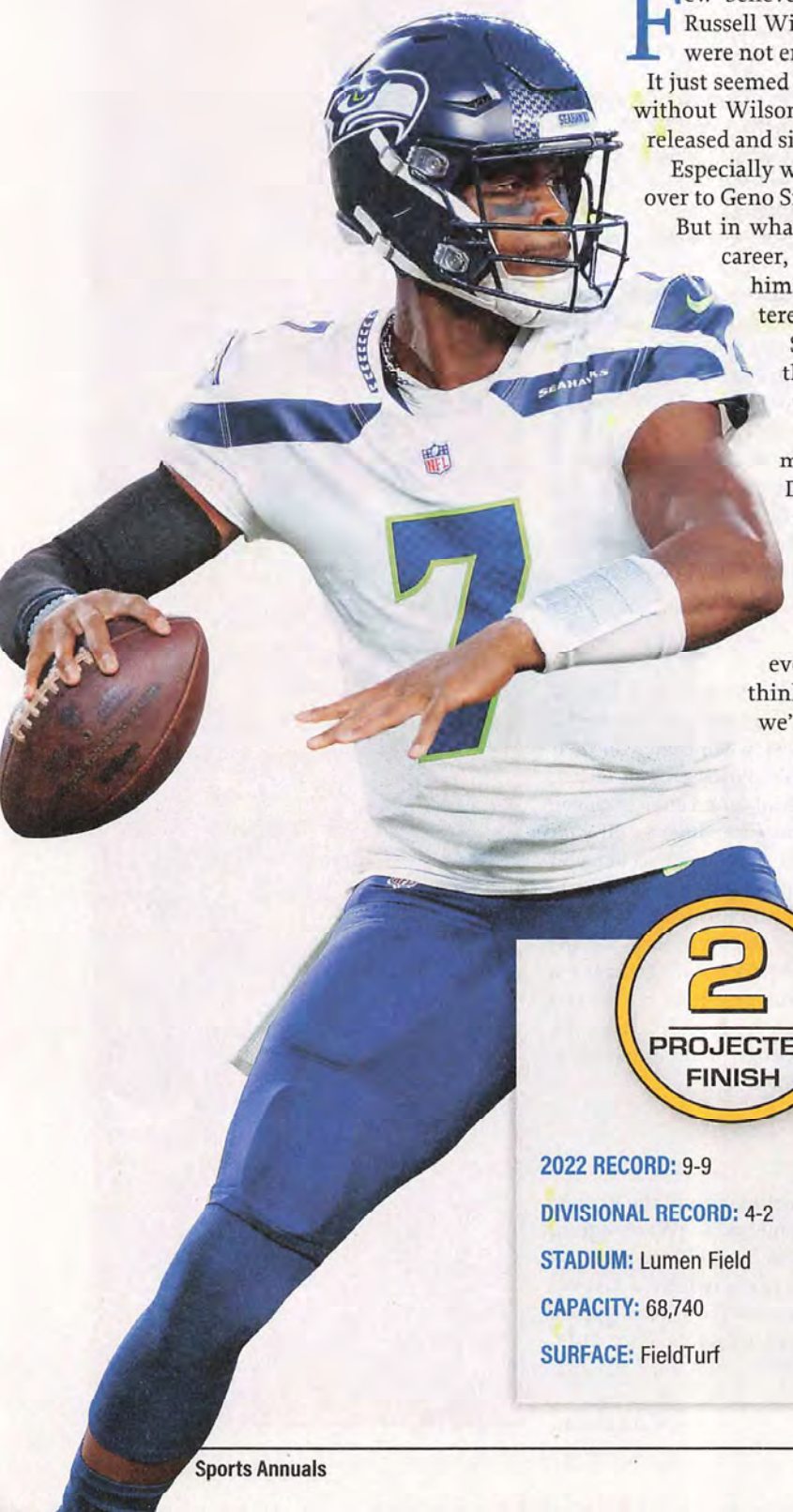
But in what was as good of a coaching job as any in Carroll's legendary career, the Seahawks started 6-3 with Smith stunning everyone but himself by playing as well as anyone in the league. The season cratered a bit from there as defensive weaknesses caught up to them.

Still, a 9-8 season and a wild-card playoff berth seemed to show that Carroll and general manager John Schneider still had it in them to build another winner.

In the offseason that followed, Seattle then re-signed Smith, made an aggressive move to sign free-agent defensive lineman Dre'Mont Jones, somewhat surprisingly brought back Wagner and added a highly-praised 10-man draft class.

It all left the uber-optimistic Carroll saying the sky is the limit in 2023.

"We ain't going to hold nothing back," Carroll said. "Everybody tried to make us into a rebuild a year ago or whatever that was all about. And that isn't the way we think. We're thinking as we start this thing off and pull these guys with us, that we're really going for it."



**Geno Smith**
Photo by Joe Robbins

**2**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 9-9

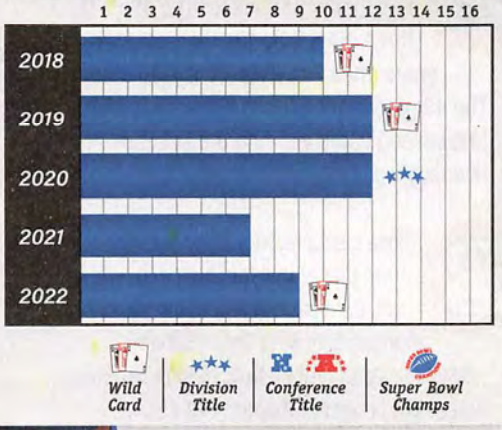
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 4-2

**STADIUM:** Lumen Field

**CAPACITY:** 68,740

**SURFACE:** FieldTurf

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

12 SEAHAWKS WAY
RENTON, WA 98056
(425) 203-8000
WWW.SEAHAWKS.COM

**TRAINING CAMP:** Virginia Mason Athletic Center; Renton, WA
**HEAD COACH:** Pete Carroll
- 14th season with Seahawks
- 138-90-1 overall; 10-9 postseason
- 17th season as NFL head coach
- 172-123-1; 11-11 postseason

**CHAIR, TRUSTEE OF PAUL G. ALLEN TRUST:** Jody Allen
**EXEC. VP/GM:** John Schneider
**ASSISTANT GM:** Nolan Teasley
**VP PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Trent Kirchner
**SR. DIR. PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Matt Berry
**DIR. COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Aaron Hineline
**DIR. PRO PERSONNEL:** Willie Schneider

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Carl Smith | Associate head coach | 34 | 11 |
| Shane Waldron | Offensive coordinator | 10 | 3 |
| Nate Carroll | Sr. offensive assistant | 13 | 13 |
| Greg Olson | Quarterbacks | 22 | 1 |
| Kerry Joseph | Asst. quarterbacks | 4 | 4 |
| Andy Dickerson | Offensive line | 18 | 3 |
| Keli'i Kekuewa | Assistant line | 4 | 4 |
| Sanjay Lal | *Receivers | 17 | 3 |
| Chad Morton | @Running backs | 14 | 10 |
| Pat McPherson | Tight Ends | 26 | 14 |
| Donovan Jackson | Offensive assistant | 1 | 1 |
| Robbie Picazzo | Offensive assistant | 1 | 1 |
| Clint Hurtt | Defensive coordinator | 10 | 7 |
| Damione Lewis | Asst. DL/tackles | 4 | 4 |
| BT Jordan | Pass rush specialist | 1 | 1 |
| John Glenn | Linebackers | 12 | 12 |
| Roy Anderson | Defensive backs | 18 | 1 |
| Karl Scott | &Defensive backs | 3 | 2 |
| DeShawn Shead | Asst. defensive backs | 3 | 3 |
| Will Tukuafu | Def. quality control | 2 | 2 |
| Neiko Thorpe | Defensive assistant | 1 | 1 |
| Larry Izzo | Special teams coord. | 13 | 6 |
| Tracy Smith | Asst. special teams | 15 | 4 |
| Ivan Lewis | Head S&C | 7 | 5 |
| Thomas Garcia | S&C assistant | 5 | 5 |
| Jamie Yanchar | S&C assistant | 14 | 14 |
| Mark Philipp | S&C assistant | 5 | 5 |
| Grant Steen | S&C assistant | 5 | 5 |
| Danny Van Dijk | S&C assistant | 5 | 5 |

* Off. pass game coord. @ Off. run game coord. & Def. pass game coord.

## SEAHAWKS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/9 | Charles Cross | T | Starter |
| 2021 | 2/56 | Dee Eskridge | WR | Backup |
| 2020 | 1/27 | Jordyn Brooks | LB | Starter |
| 2019 | 1/29 | L.J. Collier | DE | Cardinals |
| 2018 | 1/27 | Rashaad Penny | RB | Eagles |

## COACHING

Carroll entered 2022 facing as many questions about his future as he ever had since coming to Seattle in 2010. But as the season ended, the talk in Seattle was mostly wondering why he hadn't gotten more consideration as Coach of the Year.

Carroll masterfully crafted the offense around Smith and integrated six rookies into key roles while convincing the vets that the team had the same high expectations as ever.

It wasn't all perfect. The defense, Carroll's pride and joy, struggled as much as it ever has in his tenure and turning that around is the key to taking the next step in 2023.

But while Carroll turns 72 in September, he showed in 2022 that he doesn't appear to have lost a step.

**RATING: 8.5**

## QUARTERBACKS

Much to the astonishment of just about everyone, Smith opened the season by outdueling Wilson in a Monday night win in Seattle, and for the next two months played about as well any QB in the league. A little late-season drop-off pockmarked with some untimely turnovers has some wondering if Smith can sustain his early-season play for the long haul.

Still, he led the NFL in completion percentage at 69.8 with a 30-11 touchdown-to-interception ratio while not missing a single snap. Seattle then rewarded him with a three-year deal that could be worth up to $105 million, making clear he's the leader going forward. Seattle also re-signed Drew Lock, acquired in the Wilson trade and a player the organization still greatly values, to again serve as the backup.

**RATING: 7.5**

## RUNNING BACKS

Many wondered a year ago why Seattle drafted Kenneth Walker III in the second round. They stopped wondering when Rashaad Penny was again injured in the fifth game of the year and Walker stepped in to rush for 1,050 yards and finish second in the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year voting.

Walker needs to more consistently hit the hole instead of looking for the big run. But he ultimately showed he can serve as a perfect complement to Smith's passing.

Walker now returns as the bellcow for Seattle's attack with Penny deciding to head for a fresh start with the Eagles. Penny's departure compelled the Seahawks to draft Zach Charbonnet in the second round. He'll battle holdover DeeJay Dallas and rookie

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

Just when every analyst and expert had the Seahawks buried, they proved to reload once again, finding success with career journeyman QB Geno Smith. The 2022 Comeback Player of the Year is back in the saddle for at least another season and once again, Seattle will turn to some of the influx of young talent around him. ... Entering his fourth season, RB **DeeJay Dallas** is only 24-years-old and has bided his time patiently. The path has been cleared for him to finally see an increase in carries, as the offense looks to take advantage of his jackknife tools. ... It is officially boom-or-bust time for third-year WR **Dee Eskridge.** He has appeared in only 20 games during his first two seasons, but Seattle took the speedster in the second round because they believed in his ability to stretch the defense. They need him to provide the occasional deep threat to keep opponents honest. ... If the switch turns on for OLB **Boye Mafe**, watch out. His burst off the edge is impressive, as evident by his three sacks as a rookie. The coaching staff is anticipating a giant leap in production with his improved strength and conditioning entering 2023.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

JAMAL ADAMS

Seattle paid a hefty price both in draft picks (first-rounders in 2021 and 2022) and in salary (a four-year deal worth $17.5 million a year) for Adams. So far, they've gotten 25 games, 9.5 sacks all in his first season in 2020 and two interceptions (for no yards) as the key parts of their investment. To be fair, he's been a good run defender and solid overall when healthy. But Seattle expected a difference-maker, which Adams was for most of 2020, but hasn't been since, while missing all but one game last year due to injury. The structure of Adams' contract means Seattle could get out of it after 2023. What the Seahawks clearly hope to have happen is that he plays well enough that they want to keep him.

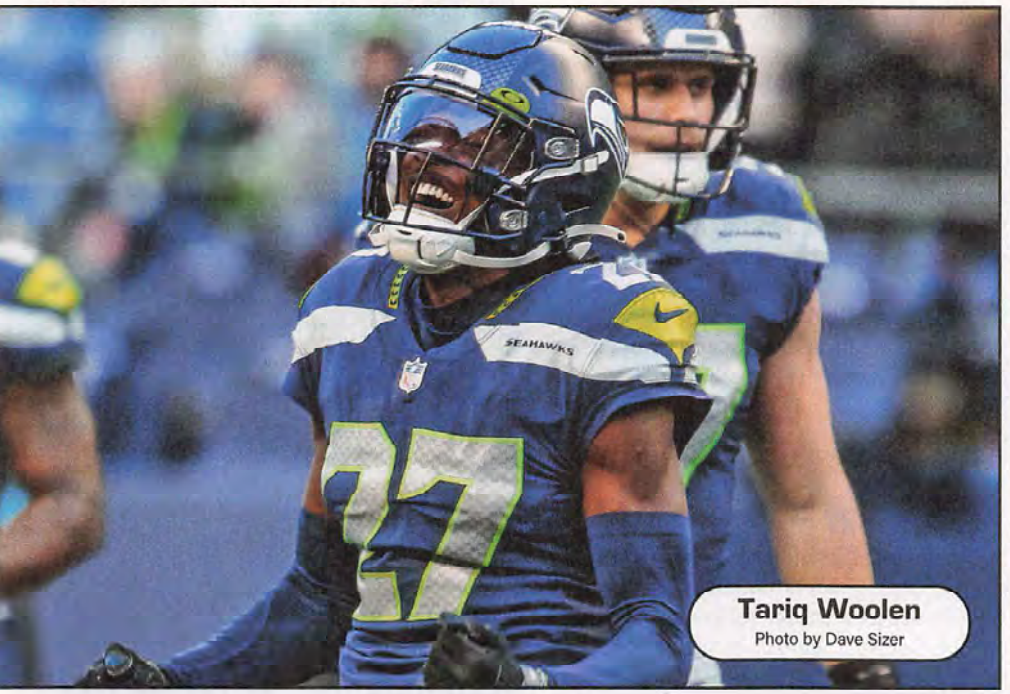
# SEAHAWKS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 89 | *Dissly, Will (TE) | 6-4 | 265 | 6 | Washington | 15/15/0/0 | D4 18 | D4 SEA 18 | Expected to be ready for season following December knee injury. |
| 1 | *Eskridge, Dee (RS) | 5-9 | 190 | 3 | Western Michigan | 10/0/0/0 | D2 21 | D2 SEA 21 | 2021 second-round pick has played only 20 games in two seasons with 17 catches. |
| 87 | Fant, Noah (TE) | 6-4 | 249 | 5 | Iowa | 17/16 | T,SEA 22 | D1 DEN 19 | Seahawks will hope for a little more from key piece of Russell Wilson deal. |
| 16 | Lockett, Tyler | 5-10 | 182 | 9 | Kansas State | 16/16/0/1 | D3 15 | D3 SEA 15 | Turns 31 in September, but no evidence he's slowing down after 84-catch season. |
| 85 | Mabry, Tyler (TE) | 6-3 | 247 | 2 | Maryland | 2/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA SEA 20 | Popular practice-squadder caught first career TD late in season. |
| 14 | Metcalf, DK | 6-4 | 235 | 5 | Mississippi | 17/17 | D2 19 | D2 SEA 19 | Has lived up to the hype and then some; hasn't missed a game in four years. |
| 84 | Parkinson, Colby (TE) | 6-7 | 251 | 4 | Stanford | 17/2 | D4 20 | D4 SEA 20 | Showed promise when given key role late in year with Dissly out. |
| 11 | Smith-Njigba, Jaxon | 6-1 | 200 | R | Ohio State | 0/0 | D1 23 | D1 SEA 23 | Seahawks hope former Ohio State standout will be third WR threat they've lacked. |
| 13 | *Thompson, Cody | 6-2 | 205 | 2 | Toledo | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA KC 19 | Was early training camp standout before shoulder injury ended season. |
| 83 | Young, Dareke | 6-2 | 224 | 2 | Lenoir-Rhyne | 13/0/0/4 | D7 22 | D7 SEA 22 | 2022 seventh-rounder was special-teams star; that could again earn him playing time. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 70 | Bradford, Anthony (G) | 6-5 | 345 | R | Louisiana State | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 SEA 23 | Fourth-round pick could give Haynes a push on right side and be a backup either side. |
| 63 | Brown, Evan (C) | 6-2 | 305 | 5 | Southern Methodist | 14/12/0/3 | UFA,DET 23 | CFA NYG 18 | Former Lion will play center for Seattle and opens camp as starter. |
| 67 | Cross, Charles (IT) | 6-5 | 311 | 2 | Mississippi State | 17/17 | D1 22 | D1 SEA 22 | Ninth pick in 2022 draft lived up to billing; playing all but two snaps. |
| 74 | Curhan, Jake (T) | 6-6 | 316 | 3 | California | 4/0/2/11 | CFA 21 | CFA SEA 21 | Versatility (can play guard or tackle on either side) should win him job again. |
| 78 | Forsythe, Stone (T) | 6-8 | 307 | 3 | Florida | 17/1 | D6 21 | D6 SEA 21 | 2021 sixth-rounder looms again as the backup on either side. |
| 60 | Haynes, Phil (rG) | 6-4 | 322 | 5 | Wake Forest | 15/3/0/2 | FA 21 | D4 SEA 19 | After sharing time in 2022 with Gabe Jackson, right-guard spot is his to lose. |
| 62 | Hunt, Joey (C) | 6-2 | 299 | 5 | Texas Christian | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D6 SEA 16 | Sixth-rounder in 2016 returned to practice squad. Experienced depth at least. |
| 68 | Lewis, Damien (lG) | 6-2 | 327 | 4 | Louisiana State | 16/16/0/1 | D3 20 | D3 SEA 20 | Entering final year of rookie deal, he has been steady, if unflashy, at left guard. |
| 72 | Lucas, Abraham (RT) | 6-6 | 322 | 2 | Washington State | 16/16/0/1 | D3 22 | D3 SEA 22 | 2022 third-round pick looks like a pillar on right side for years to come. |
| 51 | Oluwatimi, Olusegun (C) | 6-3 | 308 | R | Michigan | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 SEA 23 | Voted nation's best center last year at Michigan; has chance to win starting job. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 44 | Bellore, Nick (FB/MLB) | 6-1 | 250 | 12 | Central Michigan | 16/0/0/1 | FA 20 | CFA NYJ 11 | His biggest role is on special teams; he's been a captain last two years. |
| 26 | Charbonnet, Zach | 6-1 | 220 | R | UCLA | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 SEA 23 | Provides valuable depth and will be a complementary piece with Walker. |
| 31 | Dallas, DeeJay (RS) | 5-10 | 214 | 4 | Miami | 15/0/0/2 | D4 20 | D4 SEA 20 | Projects to most likely again serve as third-down back. |
| 25 | McIntosh, Kenny | 6-0 | 210 | R | Georgia | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 SEA 23 | Rookie found good home with team that likes to run ball as much as Seattle. |
| 9 | Walker III, Ken | 5-9 | 211 | 2 | Michigan State | 15/11/0/2 | D2 22 | D2 SEA 22 | Proved worth with 1,000-yard season; only second by Seattle rookie ever. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Lock, Drew | 6-4 | 228 | 5 | Missouri | 0/0/17/0 | T,SEA 22 | D2 DEN 19 | Didn't play in 2022, but impressed in camp, practices. Team still likes his future. |
| 7 | Smith, Geno | 6-3 | 221 | 11 | West Virginia | 17/17 | FA 20 | D2 NYJ 13 | Breakout star of 2022 NFL season returns as team's unquestioned leader. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 95 | Adams, Myles (T) | 6-2 | 290 | 2 | Rice | 10/0/0/7 | FA 22 | CFA CARO 20 | Likely to back up Jarran Reed after earning role in rotation in '22. |
| 55 | *Jones, Dre'Mont (E) | 6-3 | 281 | 5 | Ohio State | 13/13/0/0 | UFA,DEN 23 | D3 DEN 19 | High expectations galore for biggest free-agent signee of Carroll era. |
| 91 | *Mone, Bryan (NT) | 6-3 | 345 | 4 | Michigan | 13/3/0/1 | FA 19 | CFA SEA 19 | Figures to be at least a rotational piece as end in 3-4. |
| 94 | Morris, Mike (E) | 6-6 | 292 | R | Michigan | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 SEA 23 | Suffered ACL injury in December and it's unclear when he will return. |
| 90 | Reed, Jarran (E) | 6-3 | 306 | 8 | Alabama | 17/14 | UFA,GB 23 | D2 SEA 16 | After unhappy end to first stint in Seattle, back to provide leadership up front. |
| 93 | Young, Cameron (NT) | 6-3 | 304 | R | Mississippi State | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 SEA 23 | Could step right into starting role at nose tackle. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 56 | *Brooks, Jordyn (I) | 6-0 | 240 | 4 | Texas Tech | 16/16/0/0 | D1 20 | D1 SEA 20 | Suffered ACL injury on Jan. 1 and it's unclear when he'll be ready. |
| 11 | Bush, Devin (I) | 5-11 | 234 | 4 | Michigan | 17/14 | UFA,PITT 23 | D1 PITT 19 | Former Steeler likely steps into starting role and chance to revive career. |
| 58 | Hall, Derick (O) | 6-3 | 252 | R | Auburn | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 SEA 23 | Should get major reps in OLB/edge pass-rush rotation. |
| 50 | Jones, Vi (I) | 6-2 | 225 | 1 | Virginia | 3/0/0/2 | FA 22 | CFA SEA 22 | Practice squadder bulked up in offseason and could play either inside or out. |
| 53 | Mafe, Boye (O) | 6-4 | 261 | 2 | Minnesota | 17/3 | D2 22 | D2 SEA 22 | Showed promise, but also inconsistency. Team hoping for breakout in 2023. |
| 10 | Nwosu, Uchenna (O) | 6-2 | 251 | 5 | Southern Cal | 17/17 | UFA,LAC 22 | D2 LAC 18 | Proved worth every penny in 2022, tying for team-lead in sacks with 9.5. |
| 49 | Onujiogu, Josh | 6-2 | 252 | 1 | Virginia | 1/0/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA SEA 22 | Practice squadder impressed when getting significant time in win over Cardinals. |
| 59 | Rhattigan, Jon | 6-0 | 236 | 2 | Army | 5/0/0/0 | FA 21 | CFA SEA 21 | Core special-teamer will get chance to push Bush for playing time. |
| 98 | *Robinson, Alton (O) | 6-3 | 259 | 4 | Syracuse | 0/0/0/0 | D5 20 | D5 SEA 20 | Missed all last season with knee injury and will fight for roster spot. |
| 92 | *Smith, Tyreke (O) | 6-3 | 255 | 2 | Ohio State | 0/0/0/0 | D5 22 | D5 SEA 22 | Sat out all year due to injury. Will also fight for roster spot. |
| 52 | Taylor, Darrell (O) | 6-4 | 267 | 4 | Tennessee | 16/3/0/1 | D2 20 | D2 SEA 20 | Had up and down 2022 season, but ended on an up note, finishing with 9.5 sacks. |
| 54 | Wagner, Bobby (I) | 6-0 | 242 | 12 | Utah State | 17/17 | FA 23 | D2 SEA 12 | Legendary Seahawk returns after year in LA as fill-in for Brooks and leadership. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 33 | *Adams, Jamal (S) | 6-1 | 213 | 7 | Louisiana State | 1/1/0/0 | T,NYJ 20 | D1 NYJ 17 | Seahawks confident he'll be back to full health by September or so after knee injury. |
| 35 | *Blount, Joey (S) | 6-1 | 201 | 2 | Virginia | 11/0/0/4 | CFA 22 | CFA SEA 22 | UDFA was special-teams standout and that will be his route to making team again. |
| 22 | Brown, Tre (CB) | 5-10 | 185 | 3 | Oklahoma | 5/0/0/1 | D4 21 | D4 SEA 21 | Showed loads of promise as rookie in 2021; has been waylaid since by a knee injury. |
| 8 | Bryant, Coby (CB) | 6-1 | 193 | 2 | Cincinnati | 17/6 | D4 22 | D4 SEA 22 | Won nickel job early in season and figures to play there again. |
| 6 | Diggs, Quandre (S) | 5-9 | 197 | 9 | Texas | 17/17 | T,DET 19 | D6 DET 15 | Took a while to get back to old self following knee injury. Hoping for smoother 2023. |
| 24 | *Dunn, Isaiah (CB) | 6-0 | 193 | 3 | Oregon State | 5/0/0/1 | W, NYJ 22 | CFA NYJ 21 | Preseason waiver claim impressed in practice, but making roster will be tough. |
| 30 | Jackson Sr., Michael (CB) | 6-1 | 210 | 3 | Miami | 17/17 | FA 22 | D5 DALL 19 | Surprisingly won the left CB job in 2023, but will now have to hold off Witherspoon. |
| 20 | Love, Julian (CB) | 5-11 | 195 | 5 | Notre Dame | 16/16/0/1 | UFA,NYG 23 | D4 NYG 19 | Got 2-year deal to be hedge if Adams can't return; rotational player if Adams does. |
| 32 | Reed II, Jerrick (S) | 5-10 | 196 | R | New Mexico | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 SEA 23 | Projects as backup safety with a shot to play nickel. |
| 21 | Witherspoon, Devon (CB) | 6-0 | 180 | R | Illinois | 0/0 | D1 23 | D1 SEA 23 | Seahawks surprised by picking him fifth overall. Should be fixture for years. |
| 27 | Woolen, Tariq (CB) | 6-4 | 210 | 2 | Texas-San Antonio | 17/17 | D5 22 | D5 SEA 22 | Was huge surprise in winning RCB job. But inconsistency showed late in year. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Dickson, Michael (P) | 6-2 | 208 | 6 | Texas | 17/0 | D5 18 | D5 SEA 18 | Remains as dangerous a punting weapon as there is. |
| 5 | Myers, Jason (K) | 5-10 | 190 | 9 | Marist | 17/0 | UFA,NYJ 19 | FA JAX 15 | Re-signed to new four-year deal following solid season. |
| 41 | Stoll, Chris (LS) | 6-2 | 256 | R | Penn State | 0/0 | CFA 23 | CFA SEA 23 | UDFA was considered best college snapper at Penn State. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; SD=Supplemental Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (I indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Cade Johnson (I, South Dakota State), Easop Winston Jr. (I, Washington State); T Jalen McKenzie (I, Southern Cal); G Greg Eiland (I, Mississippi State); LB Chris Garrett (2, Concordia, Minnesota)



Tariq Woolen
Photo by Dave Sizer

Kenny McIntosh for carries behind Walker and as the third-down back.

**RATING: 7.5**

## RECEIVERS

The story when it comes to the Seahawks' receivers has been the same for the past four years: A great 1-2 punch in DK Metcalf and Tyler Lockett but not much else consistent or proven behind them.

Seattle hopes to have finally solved that problem, drafting Jaxon Smith-Njigba with the 20th overall pick. If he proves as good as he looked in 2021 at Ohio State, when he set a Rose Bowl record with 15 catches for 347 yards, then Seattle may have as strong of a receiving corps as any team in the NFL.

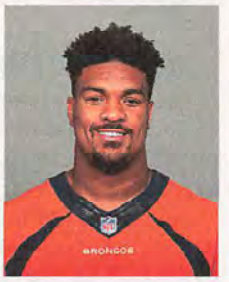
As for Metcalf and Lockett, 2022 was another season of each proving as durable and productive as ever, each topping the 1,000-yard mark. Seattle also is hoping for even more from its three-headed tight-end group of Will Dissly, Noah Fant and Colby Parkinson.

**RATING: 8**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

A month after trading Wilson, Seattle spent its first pick on a left tackle (Charles Cross) and its fourth on a right tackle (Abraham Lucas). Each, though, also simply addressed huge needs that would have been there anyway. And each filled them maybe even better than the Seahawks anticipated, allowing Smith to never miss a snap all season and Seattle to finish seventh in rushing yards per carry (4.8). Each returns for Year 2 to anchor a line that appears set heading into camp. Seattle re-signed Phil Haynes to play right guard with Damien Lewis at left guard, then signed free agent Evan Brown to take over at center. Austin Blythe, the starter a year ago, became a free agent and then retired. Rookie center Olu Oluwatimi

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES



**KEY ADDITION:**
**DL Dre'Mont Jones**
Jones got the biggest contract Seattle has given an external free agent in the Pete Carroll era (three years at $51 million-plus) with hope he can be the difference-maker up front that has been lacking lately.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**
C Evan Brown, LB Devin Bush, CB Julian Love, DL Jarran Reed, LB Bobby Wagner

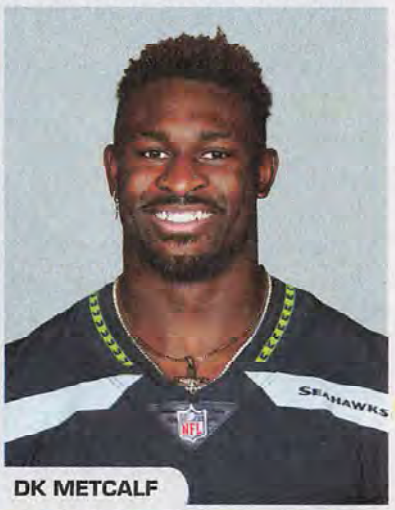
**KEY LOSS:**
**RB Rashaad Penny (5/5)***
Penny battled injuries throughout his five-year Seattle career. But when healthy he was really good; his 5.7-yards per carry average is the best in Seattle history. Wanting a fresh start, Penny signed with the Eagles.

**OTHER LOSSES:**
S Johnathan Abram (5/2), **LB Cody Barton (17/11),** C Austin Blythe (17/17), CB Artie Burns (3/0), CB Justin Coleman (12/0), DE L.J. Collier (8/0), CB Xavier Crawford (6/0), **DE Poona Ford (17/16),** G Kyle Fuller (17/0), FB Cullen Gillaspia (6/0), WR Marquise Goodwin (13/2), **DE Shelby Harris (15/15),** WR Penny Hart (9/0), RB Travis Homer (9/1), RB Godwin Igwebuike (5/0), **LB Bruce Irvin (11/9), G Gabe Jackson (15/15),** DE Quinton Jefferson (17/3), LB Darryl Johnson (4/1), S Josh Jones (12/3), RB Tony Jones Jr. (4/0), LB Tanner Muse (17/1), **S Ryan Neal (14/9),** LS Tyler Ott (0/0), CB Teez Tabor (10/1), LS Carson Tinker (17/0), WR Laquon Treadwell (6/0), **NT Al Woods (14/14)***
**Total games played/started lost: 305/125**

**STARTERS RETURNING**
14: 9 offense, 5 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS



DK METCALF

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Geno Smith | 572 | 399 | 4282 | 30 | 11 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kenneth Walker III | 228 | 1050 | 4.6 | 9 |
| Geno Smith | 68 | 366 | 5.4 | 1 |
| Rashaad Penny | 57 | 346 | 6.1 | 2 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DK Metcalf | 90 | 1048 | 11.6 | 6 |
| Tyler Lockett | 84 | 1033 | 12.3 | 9 |
| Noah Fant | 50 | 486 | 9.7 | 4 |
| Marquise Goodwin | 27 | 387 | 14.3 | 4 |

**Kicking:** Myers 41/42 XPs, 34/37 FGs, 143 points
**Tackles:** Brooks 161, Barton 133, Jackson 74
**Sacks:** Taylor 9.5, Nwosu 9.5, Jefferson 5.5
**INTs:** Woolen 6, Diggs 4, Barton 2

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 351.5 | 13 |
| Passing Offense | 231.4 | T-11 |
| Rushing Offense | 120.1 | 18 |
| Points | 23.9 | 9 |
| Sacked | 46 | T-23 |
| 3rd Down % | 37.8 | 20 |
| **Defense** | | |
| Total Defense | 361.7 | 26 |
| Passing Defense | 211.5 | 13 |
| Rushing Defense | 150.2 | 30 |
| Points Allowed | 23.6 | 25 |
| INTs | 14 | T-12 |
| Sacks | 45 | T-7 |
| Turnover Diff. | +2 | T-12 |

and guard Anthony Bradford will also get chances to win jobs.

**RATING: 7**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

When the season ended thanks to a 41-point blizzard by the 49ers in a wild-card playoff game, Carroll said the Seahawks had to get more "dynamic" up front, pointing the finger squarely at the interior line and linebackers in a season when Seattle transitioned to a 3-4 under first-year defensive coordinator Clint Hurtt. Seattle then released veterans Al Harris, Quinton Jefferson and Shelby Harris in cap-cutting moves and let Poona Ford enter free agency, then replaced them with free agent Dre'Mont Jones and Jarran Reed. Jones and Reed will man the two end spots. Left unclear is who plays nose tackle. Rookie Cameron Young could get the call. Regardless, the Seahawks need much better play after allowing 4.9 yards per rush in 2022, 27th in the league.

**RATING: 6**

## LINEBACKERS

Seattle should be OK on the outside with Uchenna Nwosu and Darrell Taylor, who each had 9.5 sacks last season, returning, along with second-year man Boye Mafe and second-round pick Derick Hall. A bit more pass rush from Mafe and better run defense from Taylor would help. The inside is more unknown with it remaining unclear when middle linebacker Jordyn Brooks will return from a Jan. 1 knee injury.

That uncertainty compelled Seattle to reunite with Wagner, who had been controversially released the year before in part to make room for Brooks to take over. Also unclear is who plays where when Brooks returns. Seattle also signed former Steelers first-rounder Devin Bush to team with Wagner while Brooks is out and compete for time when Brooks returns. But as with the line, the overall play, communication and on-field leadership needs to improve.

**RATING: 6.5**

## SECONDARY

On paper this could be a solid group, especially if strong safety Jamal Adams returns fully from a knee injury suffered in the opener that cost him the rest of the season. Free safety Quandre Diggs made his third straight Pro Bowl in 2022, and rookies Tariq Woolen and Coby Bryant helped solidify the corner spots. Seattle then added free agent Julian Love, a starter for the Giants at safety in 2022, to add depth and serve as a rotational piece. The Seahawks want to use more three-safety sets. They also drafted cornerback Devon Witherspoon fifth overall. But Seattle needs Adams to again become the playmaker he was in 2020, Witherspoon to prove as good as advertised and Woolen and Bryant to take another step.

**RATING: 7.5**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Seattle's kicking situation is as solid as any in the NFL with 2022 Pro-Bowl kicker Jason Myers back on a four-year contract and punter Michael Dickson returning for his sixth year. The coverage units were also solid last season. Rookie undrafted free agent Chris Stoll figures to be the snapper. Dallas can handle both punt and kickoff returns, though Seattle would like to get wide receiver Dee Eskridge more involved in those, too, if he can stay healthy.

**RATING: 8**

## INTANGIBLES

Having not just survived but thrived in year one after Wilson — and with the general perception from learning that Seattle overwhelmingly won the trade as Wilson faltered in Denver — has put only that much more of a pep in the step of the entire Seattle franchise. Some wonder, of course, if Smith is a one-year wonder. But after a giddy season and controversy-free offseason, Seattle has as much momentum as any time since the early Carroll years.

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Bob Condotta

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Can Geno Smith do it again? Smith was a revelation in 2022. However, he threw seven of his 11 interceptions in the final 11 games, and another in the playoffs. The hope is he keeps playing like first-half Geno.

2. Can Pete Carroll re-discover his defensive magic? Carroll built the 2013 Super Bowl champs with defense, but Seattle has struggled to regain that form since the breakup of the Legion of Boom. Carroll says he's sticking with the 3-4 defense, but we'll see.

3. Can Bobby Wagner really go home again? Wagner's departure in 2022 was somewhat contentious, and when he signed with the Rams no one could have imagined he'd be back a year later. But things change quickly in the NFL and each was happy to reunite when Wagner needed a new home and Seattle needed help in the middle.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 9-9**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 12 | DENVER | 17-16 |
| Sept. 18 | at San Francisco | 7-27 |
| Sept. 25 | ATLANTA | 23-27 |
| Oct. 2 | at Detroit | 48-45 |
| Oct. 9 | at New Orleans | 32-39 |
| Oct. 16 | ARIZONA | 19-9 |
| Oct. 23 | at L.A. Chargers | 37-23 |
| Oct. 30 | N.Y. GIANTS | 27-13 |
| Nov. 6 | at Arizona | 31-21 |
| Nov. 13 | at Tampa Bay | 16-21 |
| Nov. 27 | LAS VEGAS (OT) | 34-40 |
| Dec. 4 | at L.A. Rams | 27-23 |
| Dec. 11 | CAROLINA | 24-30 |
| Dec. 15 | SAN FRANCISCO | 13-21 |
| Dec. 24 | at Kansas City | 10-24 |
| Jan. 1 | N.Y. JETS | 23-6 |
| Jan. 8 | L.A. RAMS (OT) | 19-16 |
| Jan. 14 | at San Francisco (Sat) | 23-41 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Pacific**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | MINNESOTA | TBD |
| Aug. 17-21 | DALLAS | TBD |
| Aug. 24-27 | at Green Bay | TBD |
| Sept. 10 | L.A. RAMS | 1:25 |
| Sept. 17 | at Detroit | 10:00 |
| Sept. 24 | CAROLINA | 1:05 |
| Oct. 2 | at N.Y. Giants (Mon) | 5:15 |
| | BYE | |
| Oct. 15 | at Cincinnati | 10:00 |
| Oct. 22 | ARIZONA | 1:05 |
| Oct. 29 | CLEVELAND | 1:05 |
| Nov. 5 | at Baltimore | 10:00 |
| Nov. 12 | WASHINGTON | 1:25 |
| Nov. 19 | at L.A. Rams | 1:25 |
| Nov. 23 | SAN FRANCISCO (Thu) | 5:20 |
| Nov. 30 | at Dallas (Thu) | 5:15 |
| Dec. 10 | at San Francisco | 1:05 |
| Dec. 17 | PHILADELPHIA | 1:25 |
| Dec. 24 | at Tennessee | 10:00 |
| Dec. 31 | PITTSBURGH | 1:05 |
| TBD | at Arizona | TBD |

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HALL OF FAME 2023

# PASSING 'GURU' CORYELL CHANGED THE GAME; INNOVATOR JOINS FIRST-BALLOT INDUCTEES THOMAS, REVIS IN 9-MAN CANTON CLASS

BY ALAN ROSS

Nine years before winning the first of his three Super Bowls with the Washington Redskins, Joe Gibbs had just hired on as an assistant under the St. Louis Cardinals' new head coach, **Don Coryell**. All the coaches were holing up in a downtown hotel for three months, before wives and families could join them. One night, Gibbs was sleepily making his way to the bathroom when he heard the tinkling of ice in a glass coming from the suite's living room. Poking his head around the corner, he saw his boss lost in thought.

"Coach?"

Coryell glared back intently at his offensive backfield coach in the same way he prepared for football games: "As if he was gonna be playing them," recalls Gibbs.

"We need to move Mel Gray to halfback!" Coryell passionately exclaimed, referring to the Cardinals' young, talented third-year wide receiver.

Gibbs, in recollection, now roars with laughter. "It's 3 o'clock in the morning! I'm just trying to go back to bed!"

The incident was typical of the man credited with innovating and modernizing today's passing game under the well-known moniker Air Coryell. "He was the most honest person that I can remember being around," says Gibbs, who first played for Coryell in the early 1960s, before logging 10 years with him as an assistant coach. "He was also the most intense."

Coryell, a seven-time Pro Football Hall of Fame finalist who is deceased, joins a first-ever nine-man incoming class to Canton on Aug. 5.

## THE MAN

Intensity and honesty were just two defining characteristics of the former Cardinals and San Diego Chargers head coach. Those who knew him best, his players and coaches, drew up a litany of descriptions.

"He was quirky," says Hall of Famer Dan Dierdorf. "He wasn't a big guy, but he was a boxer; he was feisty. He was a character. They don't make 'em like that anymore. He was unique."

The Cardinals' five-time first-team All-Pro tackle recalled one of the early team meetings with the first-year head coach. Old rules under the previous coaching regime were gone over, including fines for missing meals, at which point Dierdorf raised his hand, explaining to Coryell that many players preferred not to attend breakfast when undergoing two-a-day practices. The new coach from California stared down Dierdorf while contemplating his reply.

"I don't care if any of you come to any of the meals," he finally answered. "The only thing I care about is whether you can play ball." The fine list, in effect, was torn up. "And from that moment on," Dierdorf says, "everybody in that room would have run through a brick wall for Don Coryell."

"He was an engaging guy, a very warm guy, a guy you enjoyed being around," remembers Jackie Smith, the Cardinals' Hall of Fame tight end through the Coryell era in St. Louis (1973-77). "Easy to talk to, a very approachable guy, always thinking about something; mainly football. We could see on a daily basis what a unique character he was and what a unique ability he brought to the game. Just his showing his attention: It would be a spur of the moment thing, a burst of enthusiasm or a statement like 'We're gonna kick somebody's ass!' You know? But he was just always wired."

"He was a master at allowing. He encouraged creativity," notes Al Saunders, wide receivers coach/assistant head coach under Coryell at San Diego, who succeeded Coryell midway through the 1986 season. "He just loved ideas. He made the game fun: fun for the players and fun for the coaches."

**PHOTO LEFT: Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2023**

Photo by Kirby Lee-USA TODAY Sports

Gray, the four-time Pro Bowl wide receiver during Coryell's five-years in St. Louis, recalls, "He was a great motivator, innovative. He was awesome." But Gray also mused on another element of his coach's personality; quirky, for sure, and one that has enveloped many in football's coaching fraternity through the ages.

"He was paranoid," Gray chuckles. "He thought there were spies up in the stadium watching us. We had people in the stands. We had people in the hotel looking to see if anybody was walking in the parking lot spying on us. And if he saw anybody out there, oh, he would go crazy."

Hall of Fame quarterback Dan Fouts, who guided the famed Air Coryell offense to spectacular heights in San Diego, leading the NFL in passing yards in seven of Coryell's nine seasons there, recalls the day his new head coach took charge.

"He made us all laugh from the very first moment," says Fouts. "It was like a breath of fresh air."

## THE METHOD

It was the most explosive, high-powered offense the league had seen since 1951, when the Los Angeles Rams set the NFL on fire and took the championship with their duo of future Hall of Fame quarterbacks Bob Waterfield and Norm Van Brocklin, plus Canton-bound ends Elroy "Crazy Legs" Hirsch and Tom Fears.

It was dubbed Air Coryell. But as famed college football commentator Lee Corso is fond of saying, not so fast my friend. That's because when Donald David Coryell first started making headlines as a college football coach, he was operating a ground game.

"He was run, run, run," says Gibbs, who began his lengthy tenure under Coryell as a tight end and linebacker at San Diego State, before hooking on as an unpaid graduate assistant on Coryell's small staff at his alma mater. Good fortune came immediately: Gibbs was assigned to understudy the team's defensive coach, a guy named John Madden. The two future Hall of Famers worked together from 1964-66, before heading off to different coaching destinations. "We ran the ball every down."

But soon players like quarterback Don Horn and gifted receivers Haven Moses and Gary Garrison — all future NFL players — began coming to SDSU. Coryell started throwing it. And never stopped. Over his 12 years there (*1961-72*), he compiled an imposing 104-19-2 record that helped elevate the Aztecs to Division I status. But SDSU wasn't his first rodeo. Previously Coryell had gained seven seasons of head coaching experience at other colleges or the military, including two years (*1953-54*) at the University of British Columbia where he was exposed to Canadian-style football, which likely sprouted the first seeds of Air Coryell in his mind.

"Don wanted to be like Canadian football," recalls Saunders. "They've got all kinds of guys going in motion at the same time, and he envisioned that for the National Football League. That type of football. ... was fun and it was creative and you got mismatches. Nobody else was doing that at that time."

The NFL came calling in '73, and Coryell quickly showed his hand in St. Louis. "I mean, he got everybody when he came in with this program and said, 'You guys, if you buy into this, you will become winners,'" Gray mentions. "And we did."

The rejuvenation of quarterback Jim Hart under Coryell was one of the premier offensive changes that spearheaded the Cardiac Cardinals to their first division title in 26 years. "We were explosive," adds Dierdorf. "We had big-play capability."

"Coryell's offense, every play that he put together was a game-breaking play," says Gray, Hart's favorite long-range threat. "He was an offensive passing *guru*!"

"It just shows you how much one man can make a difference in a team," Smith concludes.

At that point in its evolution — Smith's stellar contributions at tight end notwithstanding — the ultimately critical development of the "move" tight end had yet to birth into Coryell's scheme.

"Yeah, it wasn't developed there," owns Gibbs. "And let me tell you what caused that: We drafted Kellen Winslow."

## AIR CORYELL LIFTOFF

The great makeover in St. Louis came to an abrupt end following the 1977 season. Coryell had become increasingly bitter about being left out of the Cardinals' personnel decisions and said so publicly. He was fired, but resurfaced in San Diego in late September of the following year.

The big shift in Chargers fortunes occurred in Coryell's first full season on the coast, when Winslow, a majestically athletic tight end from Missouri, was selected in the 1979 draft. Hoping to maximize their top pick's superior talents, the Chargers new offensive brain trust, which included Gibbs now as offensive coordinator, devised the revolutionary two-tight end set, bringing in a traditional tight end to block on the line that freed Winslow to line up, well, anywhere.

"And actually took the fullback out of the game," adds Gibbs. "That allowed us to start moving him all along the line of scrimmage."

Traditionally, this shattered the tight end archetype. In the '60s and '70s, forces like Mike Ditka and John Mackey would line up tight to the tackle, hand in the dirt, "then catch the six-yard pass over the middle and get tackled by five linebackers," says Saunders. Coryell and his staff's use of Winslow changed all that. "Kellen Winslow is running down the middle of the field, catching 80-yard passes in the seams. Nobody attacked the seams

**Don Coryell**

Photo by RVR Photos-USA TODAY Sports

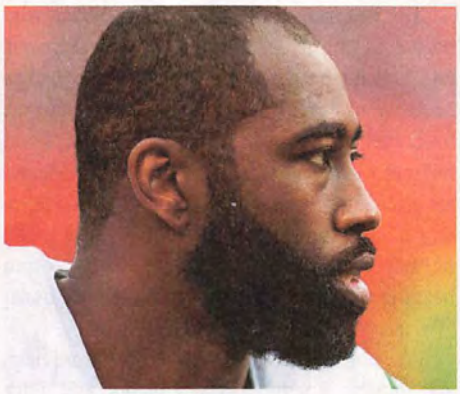
**Ken Riley**

Photo by The Associated Press

**Chuck Howley**

Photo by Dick Raphael-USA TODAY Sports

**Joe Thomas**
Photo by Patrick McDermott-USA TODAY Sports



**Darrelle Revis**
Photo by Scott R. Galvin-USA TODAY Sports

**Joe Klecko**
Photo by USA TODAY Sports

in the passing game like Don Coryell and [Chargers passing game coordinator] Ernie Zampese designed. That was what really opened up the game." The evolution from Winslow on through Tony Gonzalez, Antonio Gates and others would continue through the decades. "He was Rob Gronkowski before Rob Gronkowski," Saunders adds.

The firepower went well beyond Winslow. Future Hall of Famer Charlie Joiner, two-time first-team All-Pro John Jefferson, and later Wes Chandler, all were game-breaking wide receivers. For the run game, Chuck Muncie among others ground out the tough yards.

"It was simple in its complexity," says Fouts, regarding the flow of Coryell's offense. "It was easy to learn for our receivers and it was a progression that was easy to understand for the quarterback." Best of all, the scheme offered immediate big-play pop. "Almost 90 percent of the regular passing game, the option was always the bomb," Fouts says of his reads. "And then you work your way back towards the line of scrimmage."

Among Coryell's considerable contributions to the passing game, his route tree and its nomenclature stand out. "It was absolutely brilliant," says Gibbs, who cites Coryell's influence as critical in his own coaching life. "It was simple and gave the quarterback an actual picture of the play."

How good was the scheme? "I remember him making a comment about our opponents," says Gray of Coryell's strength of conviction. "He said, 'Hell, I would *give* them our playbook. They gotta stop us!' I loved that."

So impactful was Air Coryell's effect on pro football's offensive landscape that it even spawned new defenses to try to stop it. "In fact," notes Saunders, "Don's offense really created the concept of Cover 2, of five-under two-deep zones. People didn't play nickel defenses until Don started playing three and four wide receivers and three tight ends and moving people around. They had to get people on the field that could defend the pass."

The curious may wonder how the actual catchphrase Air Coryell was conceived. According to an article by Tom Barnidge for the Pro Football Hall of Fame website in 2005, Coryell's Chargers of passing fancy were whimsically titled in the '80s after the phrase "Air Kroc," which had been proliferating locally around San Diego when the Padres baseball team began flying to away games on the private jet of team owner and McDonald's multi-millionaire Ray Kroc.

Now, though, Air Coryell lingers like a fine red, its aftertaste resonating with the strength of its first appeal.

"Does Don Coryell's offense still exist in the league?" asks Saunders. "It exists with every team. People just don't know how it got there." The line is easy to trace: through Washington in the '80s/early '90s with Gibbs, through Dallas in the mid '90s with Zampese as offensive coordinator, and back again through St. Louis when the Rams rolled out "The Greatest Show on Turf" teams with Mike Martz at the turn of the millennium.

"Let me tell you this," Gray points out. "If somebody didn't like Don Coryell, there was something wrong with them. I mean, the chemistry that we had! His offense was next to none. It was like putting a puzzle together. And he put a *hell* of a puzzle together."

Dierdorf and Gibbs alternate between hearty laughter and deep-set admiration when recalling their time with Coryell. "We loved him," Dierdorf says, a sincerity in his voice unmistakeable. "We just loved him."

Dan Fouts pauses thoughtfully, letting the sweet reverie of those Camelot days under Coryell surround him once again.

"It was," he says, "a Hall of Fame offense."

## RILEY'S BLANK PRO BOWL SLATE

In the 61-year history of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, never has an inductee been void of at least one modern-era Pro Bowl appearance (*1950 on*). But this year, Cincinnati's **Ken Riley** broke that string. One is left to surmise that either the Hall of Fame is desperate for qualified candidates or the Pro Bowl selectors from Riley's era (*1969-83*) were clueless. In Riley's defense, it is likely the latter. Pro Bowl selections are rarely designated for career consistency, but that's precisely what Riley's forte was as a tough, 15-year Bengals cornerback. That plus one gleaming, unavoidably gaudy career statistic: 65 interceptions. At the time of his retirement, that total ranked fourth all time in NFL annals. Today, 40 years later, it's still sky-high on the career list, tied for fifth best. Another oddity in Riley's resume': In his 15th and final season, he garnered his one and only first-team All-Pro selection — how's that for consistency — an honor few acquire in the final year of a lengthy career.

But Riley's zero Pro Bowls raises the topic of what other Hall of Famers also flirted with shutouts. Such illustrious enshrinees as Ray Nitschke, John Riggins, Tom Fears and Frank "Gunner" Gatski only logged one Pro Bowl apiece during their careers. "Helmet-less" Bill Hewitt of the Bears made first-team All-Pro in 1938, the inaugural year of the Pro All-Star Game, which predated the modern Pro Bowl, but Hewitt was stiffed by the all-star game committee. Ditto Clarence "Ace" Parker, who never was selected to a Pro All-Star Game, though he was named first-team All-Pro twice during the Pro All-Star Game era (*1938-42*). Tony Canadeo, whose 11 NFL years with Green Bay overlapped both the '30s-'40s all-star game and the first three years of the Pro Bowl, never gained a selection. He was a then-rare 1,000-yard rusher in 1949, a year before the first Pro Bowl. And the great Steve Van Buren went Pro Bowl-less during his eight NFL campaigns with the Eagles, though the postseason showcase was instituted only in his final two seasons, when the five-time first-team All-Pro's career was in decline. Oddly, former quarterbacks Jim Finks (*Steelers*) and

Tom Flores (*Raiders*), who entered the Hall as contributor and head coach respectively, each made one Pro Bowl appearance as players. So Ken Riley, R.I.P. You are officially in the hallowed Hall and in good company with other fellow HOFers who lack extensive accolade cred.

## HOWLEY HOLY

While Riley fought the phantom of a dearth of honors to correct the injustice of previous omission — relegating his fate to the senior committee 35 years down the line, three years after his death — **Chuck Howley** suffered a different indignity.

As a 15-year outside linebacker primarily with Dallas in its formative years, Howley had the awards. Imagine being selected a five-time consecutive first-team All-Pro then icing that with six Pro Bowl nods, but not once hearing your name called out as a Hall of Fame finalist in the 45 years since becoming eligible? Howley should've been enshrined ages ago. Yet somehow he slipped through the cracks. Thankfully, the senior committee at long last made amends.

Howley even carved his name into Super Bowl history in two unique ways: He was the first defensive player to ever be named a Super Bowl MVP (*V*) and the only SB MVP to play for the losing team. On the 57 occasions that the big game's MVP has been announced, only 10 times have defensive players won. And now that he heads for enshrinement, Howley is no longer part of the nearly one-third of MVPs from the first 41 Super Bowls not in the Hall of Fame. (After which, the list begins to fill with still-active players or retired players still within the five-year HOF eligibility window.)

## MOVE TO THE FRONT, NO WAIT REQUIRED

The lamentable Hall of Fame travails of Howley and Riley are encumbrances former Cleveland Browns tackle **Joe Thomas** never had to shoulder. Instead, the 10-time Pro Bowler and eight-time first-team All-Pro suffered woes of a different sort: playing on subpar Cleveland teams, whose combined record during his time from 2007-2017 showed a 48-128 worksheet with just one winning season. Though Thomas was forced from the game with a torn triceps injury, at least no lengthy wait existed outside Canton's door for him or **Darrelle Revis**, both first-ballot inductees. If the Hall of Fame were a board game, the pair would have been told to pass Go and collect $200.

The former elite New York Jets shutdown cornerback was known as "Revis Island" for his ownership of the isolated one-on-one contested space between wide receivers and corners. Revis, a five-time first-team All-Pro, spread the wealth of his abilities as a seven-time Pro Bowler with four teams: six with New York, preceding single seasons with Tampa Bay and New England, where he also notched his final All-Pro selection, before returning to the Jets a second time and logging his last Pro Bowl laurel. In 2011, his fifth season in New York, he registered a career moment, returning a 100-yard pick-six against Miami.

## GETTING DEFENSIVE

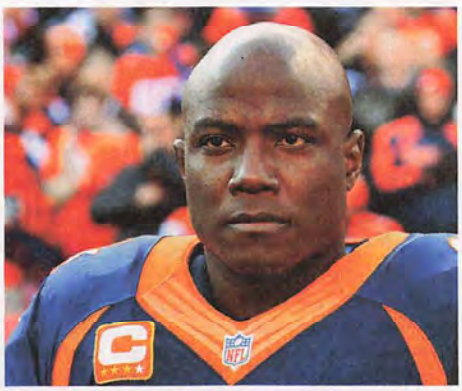
Another Jet from an earlier era joins Revis in raising the Gang Green banner: **Joe Klecko**, a four-time Pro Bowler and two-time first-team All-Pro known primarily as a pass rusher, played every position along the defensive front over his 12 NFL seasons, 11 with New York. The senior committee selectee's career sack totals fall almost equally into two epochs: official and unofficial, including his league-leading 20.5 sacks in 1981, the year before such listings became official. That same year, Klecko was named UPI's NFL Defensive Player of the Year. He joins the Giants' Frank Gifford as the only players in league history to be named to the Pro Bowl at three different positions.

Seven of the Class of 2023's eight player inductees lined up on defense, the Browns' Thomas the lone exception. And at that, two Thomases enter the Hall this year. Miami's **Zach**, an aggressive fireplug for 13 seasons at middle linebacker (12 with the Dolphins), twice led the league in combined tackles, but also dropped back effectively to cover the pass, converting four of his 17 interceptions into pick-sixes, a Miami career record. Intelligence and preparation served the five-time first-team All-Pro and seven-time Pro Bowler well, too. In his 2019 Hall of Fame induction speech, former Jets/Titans center Kevin Mawae gave a nod to his longtime foe, calling Thomas perhaps the smartest player he ever played against.

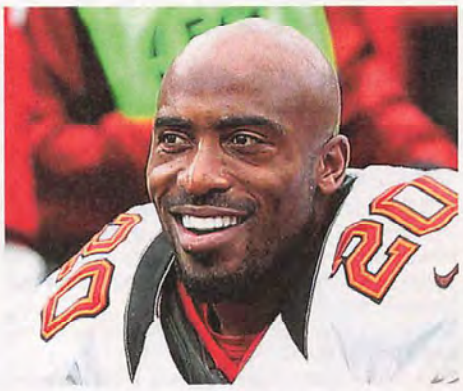
DeMarcus B. Ware. Of course, it's **DeMarcus Omar Ware** who will be enshrined in pro football's Valhalla this August, but few NFL quarterbacks existed in the aughts and '10s who weren't wary of the cut 6-foot-4, 258-pound edge rusher with Dallas and Denver. As in DeMarcus BeWare. The nine-time Pro Bowling right outside linebacker and occasional defensive end led the league twice in sacks and five times was voted a first-team All-Pro. Ware also led the league three times in tackles for loss and still holds the Dallas franchise mark for sacks all time (117). He closed out his 12-year NFL career with Denver, making the Pro Bowl in two of his three seasons there.

There's a bit of irony in claiming the surname of Barber with not a single hair on your head. And the same holds true for **Ronde's** twin brother, Tiki. While the latter grabbed headlines for 10 seasons in the media capital of New York City as the Giants' star running back of the early aughts, Ronde was quietly building a Pro Football Hall of Fame résumé as a skilled, durable five-time Pro Bowl cornerback over 16 seasons; all with Tampa Bay. The three-time first-team All-Pro owns the league's all-time standard for sacks by a cornerback (28) and is the only man in NFL history to record more than 45 career interceptions and 25 sacks. Clearly, Barber got in the hair of a lot of receivers and quarterbacks, yet never had a bad hair day himself.

**Zach Thomas**
Photo by James Lang-USA TODAY Sports



**DeMarcus Ware**
Photo by Ron Chenoy-USA TODAY Sports



**Ronde Barber**
Photo by Kim Klement-USA TODAY Sports

# 2023 NFL DRAFT

By Barry Wilner

## ARIZONA CARDINALS

B+

**1 (6) Paris Johnson Jr., T, Ohio State**
Big and strong, with good mobility ... Former guard who showed he can play tackle ... Very skilled at one-on-one blocks, rarely let QB C.J. Stroud be threatened in passing attack ... Anchors well, but sometimes gets too "handsy" ... Might take some time to be as well-rounded as Cardinals want.

**2 (41) BJ Ojulari, EDGE, Louisiana State**
Brother Azeez plays for the Giants ... Has had some injury issues ... One of the SEC's best pass rushers last season ... Not nearly as good against the run ... Mobile and strong, has a variety of pass-rush moves ... Seems to take off some plays, particularly against the run.

**3 (72) Garrett Williams, CB, Syracuse**
Good but inconsistent playmaker who can be too aggressive ... Has better hands than most DBs, reads and reacts well ... Hits hard and finishes his tackles ... Much better on coverages in front of him ... Probably needed another college season as he comes off torn ACL ... Only college player with a pick-6 against Trevor Lawrence.

**3 (94) Michael Wilson, WR, Stanford**
Injuries cut short his college career ... Plays with high effort, never backs down ... Has the speed to get open and the willingness to block ... YAC a plus; doesn't often go down from first hit ... Inexperience is an issue, but the rest of the package is solid ... Look for him on special teams early on.

**4 (122) Jon Gaines II, G, UCLA**
Two-year full-time starter for Bruins ... Smart player who recognizes his duties and role, though he doesn't always carry that out ... Fundamentally lacking, especially in pass protection ... Gets off balance too much ... Versatile player, though, who could be a backup at three positions.

**5 (139) Clayton Tune, QB, Houston**
As experienced a quarterback as you will find ... Tune improved throughout his five years with the Cougars and was the Independence Bowl MVP to conclude his career ... Inconsistent at times, but tends to close games well ... Needs to upgrade reading defenses, though that got better during his time in Houston ... Doesn't panic when pressured, but struggles to be accurate when on the move ... A quicker release would be helpful.

**5 (168) Owen Pappoe, LB, Auburn**
Has an NFL body, but does he have the instincts? ... Good speed for the inside, particularly on run defense, but maybe not the bulk ... Can be blocked by one defender ... Not as proactive as he should always be ... A bit of a project.

**6 (180) Kei'Trel Clark, CB, Louisville**
Great motor ... Never is intimidated ... Can handle man or zone coverage, but probably best fit is as slot defender ... Doesn't have great hands; drops potential INTs, but will break up passes ... Moves well but often overdoes it and overruns plays.

**6 (213) Dante Stills, DT, West Virginia**
Son of former NFL player Gary Stills ... Pretty versatile and can get to the QB, but not consistently a finisher ... Burst off snap is a major strength ... Gets off balance, a significant weakness ... Can be over powered at times.

**Good Move:** The first two selections should move right into the starting lineup for Arizona.

**Tell My Why:** Running back seemed to be a need with James Conner's availability not always certain, but none were taken.

**Could Surprise:** Gaines, like Johnson, figures to bolster the offensive line.

## ATLANTA FALCONS

B+

**1 (8) Bijan Robinson, RB, Texas**
Top running back in this crop ... If RBs had more value in the draft, Robinson actually might have gone higher ... Doak Walker Award winner in 2022 and All-American with everything you want for the position ... Quick, cuts well, carries the ball with security, is rugged, and is a solid receiver ... Great balance ... Has a lot to learn as a pass blocker, but he'll be a three-down back for Atlanta and likely a star.

**2 (38) Matthew Bergeron, T/G, Syracuse**
Orange had a weird season in which they were unbeaten early on, then struggled, but made a bowl game. Bergeron was more steady than that ... He does his best work in the pass game, rarely allowing pressures ... Still, Syracuse was a good run team behind Bergeron ... Might need to get stronger and must improve his balance ... French-Canadian.

**3 (75) Zach Harrison, DE, Ohio State**
Harrison played better and more consistently as a junior, but closed well last season ... Knows how to strip the ball with his length and strength ... Team leader with a great off-field resume ... Not quick nor particularly mobile, which means he fits best in a 4-3 ... Must work on tackling technique.

**4 (113) Clark Phillips III, CB, Utah**
Big-time high-school star who excelled for Utes; became All-American and was team leader ... Good hands, finds the ball and can catch it; had six picks last season ... Runs through opponents to make plays ... Not a great athlete, but could be a standout player in pros because of other attributes, including intelligence.

**7 (224) DeMarcco Hellams, S, Alabama**
One of the weaker secondary players for the Tide, but probably could have started at several other SEC schools ... Not quick nor particularly mobile, but plays like a linebacker against the run and finishes tackles ... Can handle most any short routes, but is a liability deep ... Worth a look because of college pedigree.

**7 (225) Jovaughn Gwyn, C/G, South Carolina**
Probably belongs on right side for Atlanta ... Not particularly big, must show he has the strength for the pros ... Anchors well, however, and uses his hands effectively ... Could be a debit when opponents bull rush ... A project.

**Good Move:** Lots of credit goes to the gutsy Falcons for taking by far the best player at his position in this draft, even if Robinson is a running back.

**Tell My Why:** Harrison is very inconsistent and will need to show more of a motor in the NFL.

**Could Surprise:** Phillips was tremendous value where he went and could find an early role in the A-T-L.

## BALTIMORE RAVENS

A-

**1 (22) Zay Flowers, WR, Boston College**
Forget his being small, Flowers is a playmaker ... Should be a factor immediately on kick teams ... He was productive the last two years without strong QB play ... Will go in the slot for Baltimore and should start soon ... Smart player who knows how to avoid big hits ... How he handles physicality of defenders on routes will be worth examining.

**3 (86) Trenton Simpson, LB, Clemson**
Simpson made more plays in 2021 than last year, but he was no slouch in '22 ... Terrific athlete, fast and instinctive ... Probably could play inside or outside in pros ... Sideline pursuit as good as any defender in this class ... Got blocked too often by one opponent, perhaps didn't read such plays correctly ... Lots of upside.

**4 (124) Tavius Robinson, EDGE, Mississippi**
Canada native who played at Guelph before joining the Rebels in 2020 ... A bit raw, only a one-year starter ... Finds the ball and can knock it loose; forced five fumbles last season ... Could wind up as rotational edge rusher, but also shows ability to play the run from LB ... Intelligent and relentless ... Probably needs to add weight/strength.

**5 (157) Kyu Blue Kelly, CB, Stanford**
Solid build, looks like a safety playing on the corner ... Physical and can get to the ball ... Not quick and does his best work on balls thrown in front of him ... Improved throughout college career ... Could work out for Ravens on kick teams.

**6 (199) Malaesala Aumavae-Laulu, G, Oregon**
A better prospect than teammate and fellow lineman T.J. Bass ... Aumavae-Laulu has played mostly right tackle, but figures to move to guard in Baltimore ... Pretty strong and agile, though inconsistent ... Smart player ... Must upgrade his hand usage and finish off blocks.

**7 (229) Andrew Vorhees, G, Southern Cal**
Fits best inside because of shorter arms, but has versatility ... Could play some tackle for Ravens, but guard is his best spot ... Switched between left guard and tackle for Trojans and improved throughout his five years at USC ... Not exceptional in power run game; very solid as pass protector ... Recovering from torn ACL suffered at the Combine.

**Good Move:** The Ravens are reinvigorating their passing game for Lamar Jackson with Flowers and Odell Beckham Jr.

**Tell My Why:** Simpson went to the perfect team for his skills. Could become a starter soon.

**Could Surprise:** Malaesala Aumavae-Laulu and Vorhees have lots to offer.

## BUFFALO BILLS

B+

**1 (25) Dalton Kincaid, TE, Utah**
Workout warrior whose stock soared since end of season, though he has had back issues ... Catches everything thrown his way; finds openings ... Can get downfield, too ... Bills know they aren't getting a blocking TE, though ... Former hoops player who brings much of that skill to the football field ... Originally was at San Diego — not San Diego State — and joined Utes in 2020.

**2 (59) O'Cyrus Torrence, G, Florida**
Massive guard with power and even some finesse for a 335-pounder ... Transfer from Louisiana and he handled the step up to the SEC well, earning some All-America honors ... Does his best work in the passing game, but is not a slouch in the run ... Needs to get in better shape ... Played the right side, could wind up at LG for Bills.

**3 (91) Dorian Williams, LB, Tulane**
Team leader and maybe the prime reason the Green Wave rolled over opponents in 2022 ... MVP of the Cotton Bowl, Williams is a tackling machine ... But he must improve how he sheds blockers in the pros ... Excellent burst to catch up to ball-carrier or receiver ... Not impressive in the trenches, though, needs more strength ... Should excel on special teams.

**5 (150) Justin Shorter, WR, Florida**
Excellent size at 6-4, 225 ... Had injury-shortened career at Penn State, headed to Florida in 2020 ... Unfortunately, after a solid '21 season, he was bothered last year by hamstring woes ... Nasty disposition on routes helps him make plays ... Speed is not an asset, though his footwork is solid ... Can be rerouted at the line in press coverage.

**7 (230) Nick Broeker, G, Mississippi**
Effective college player who could have adjustment issues to pro-style offenses ... Extremely experienced; has played left tackle and guard for four seasons ... Good hands; avoids penalties ... Needs to be more powerful ... Patience will help with him.

**7 (252) Alex Austin, CB, Oregon State**
Smart player who comes off two strong seasons to earn some all-conference honors ... Does his best in zone coverage, but doesn't have the mobility to excel in man-to-man ... Good hands when he gets to the ball ... Must improve his tackling.

**Good Move:** The first three selections were very solid, especially Kincaid to further juice the passing game.
**Tell My Why:** Shorter was a reach, even at No. 150.
**Could Surprise:** Both seventh-rounders could stick as long as the Bills are patient.

## CAROLINA PANTHERS

B

**1 (1) Bryce Young, QB, Alabama**
A winner, as complete as any QB in recent years ... A bit undersized, which didn't seem to bother Carolina ... Superb numbers for the Tide ... Very accurate and strong fundamentals ... Mobile and can hit his target on the run; has a rare knack of putting the ball exactly where it benefits the receiver most ... Relentless team leader who lifts everyone around him ... Must master sliding when he runs in the NFL.

**2 (39) Jonathan Mingo, WR, Mississippi**
Good size and is willing to mix it up to catch the ball ... Intelligent wideout ... Impressive burst, though it doesn't come consistently ... Wasn't a star for Ole Miss ... Panthers will like his willingness and ability to block.

**3 (80) DJ Johnson, LB, Oregon**
Excellent size and power ... Likes the hitting part of the sport ... Johnson hasn't shown enough assortment of moves to get to the ball in the NFL, but when he gets into a blocker he tends to win ... Had a solid Combine ... Technique must improve, particularly in the open field.

**4 (114) Chandler Zavala, G, North Carolina State**
Good mobility and some versatility ... Not a powerful blocker; could struggle on inside runs ... Also could use upgrade with his hands, which often slip ... His burst gets him to linebackers, but needs to improve his fundamentals to make blocks stick.

**5 (145) Jammie Robinson, S, Florida State**
Figures to see more work as a nickel back in Carolina ... Very good coming forward in the run game, but can struggle on deeper passes ... Can be fooled, but makes up for some of it with his want-to ... Hits hard ... Should help on kick teams.

**Good Move:** Obviously, moving up to get the top overall spot and grab their future QB.
**Tell My Why:** The Panthers felt they had to pay such a high price to get up to No. 1 overall?
**Could Surprise:** Young's lack of height could make zero difference as he emulates, say, Drew Brees.

## CHICAGO BEARS

B+

**1 (10) Darnell Wright, T, Tennessee**
Had Wright played every week the way he did against Alabama and stud DL Will Anderson Jr., he might have been the first blocker off the board ... As the Vols challenged in the SEC, Wright was a factor with his size (333 pounds) and strength ... Solid against the pass rush, though there weren't as many opportunities as scouts would like to see.

# NFL DRAFT

**2 (53) Gervon Dexter, DT, Florida**
Terrific athlete, former basketball player ... Big and at times seems to get in the way rather than put himself where he belongs ... Nice movement into backfield ... Not quick and not particularly versatile ... Upside is as a 3-4 guy, but he's maddingly inconsistent.

**2 (56) Tyrique Stevenson, CB, Miami**
Former Georgia Bulldog who came of age with Hurricanes ... Can handle slot duties as well as on the corner, though he is not all that natural on the outside ... Not a ballhawk ... Strong, aggressive, but doesn't always finish his hits ... Could be helpful on special teams.

**3 (64) Zacch Pickens, DT, South Carolina**
Experienced player at a school with recent improvement ... Explodes off the snap, uses his arms and hands to mix it up — and often win ... Anchors pretty well ... Strictly a one-gap guy in college.

**4 (115) Roschon Johnson, RB, Texas**
Bijan Robinson's backup, but don't call him a caddie; Johnson can play ... Not much burst, but he recognizes limitations and sticks to the power game ... Big, solidly built and can run over opponents ... Will break tackles more than most ... Might be a bit worn down from his style of running.

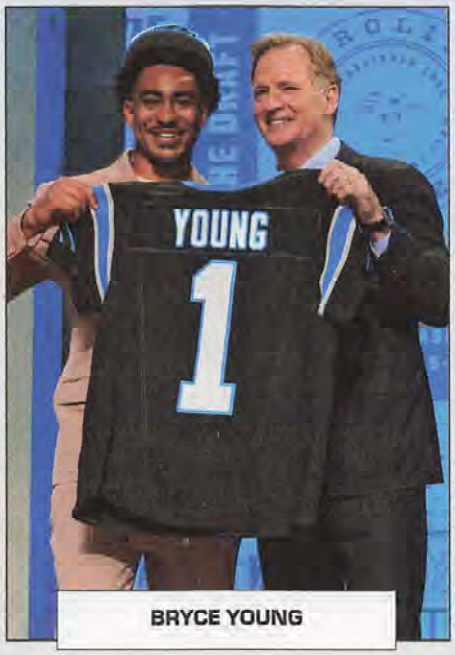
**4 (133) Tyler Scott, WR, Cincinnati**
Speedster who needs a lot of work on his routes ... A bit raw, but the talent is there ... Can get open deep ... Chicago will want to get the ball in his hands and see what he can provide ... Watch for him on kick returns ... Worth this pick.

**5 (148) Noah Sewell, LB, Oregon**
Younger brother of Lions T Penei Sewell. Noah would do well to follow big bro's progression in NFL ... A standout throughout his career with Ducks, from freshman of the year to all-conference honors ... Strictly an inside LB ... Powerful, willing to mix it up with bigger opponents; doesn't back down ... Limited, however, in play recognition; not a real natural ... Probably not a three-down pro.

**5 (165) Terell Smith, CB, Minnesota**
By far his best season was his last for Gophers ... Good size ... Never backs down ... Can handle press coverage ... Will do nice work for Bears versus run ... Not a ballhawk ... Has been beaten on double moves.

**7 (218) Travis Bell, DT, Kennesaw State**
Bell has some versatility and mobility for a guy his size ... More of a one-gap defender ... Did well in workouts leading to draft ... Could struggle against longer and taller blockers.

**7 (258) Kendall Williamson, S, Stanford**
Mr. Irrelevant, the final pick overall ... Intelligent player — what did you expect at Stanford? — with lots of experience ... Solid tackler who finds the action, but more effective against the run ... Should aid special teams in Chicago.




BRYCE YOUNG

Photo by Aaron Doster via AP

**Good Move:** Not needing a QB, the Bears traded out of the first overall spot and still hit their targets with Wright and other picks.
**Tell My Why:** Dexter was not an ill-advised selection, but he wasn't a value at No. 53.
**Could Surprise:** Pickens, Johnson, Scott. Take your pick; they all could contribute in 2022.

## CINCINNATI BENGALS

B

**1 (28) Myles Murphy, DE, Clemson**
Murphy went from a freshman standout to all-conference awards in his final college season ... Finds the ball and makes plays ... Never backs down ... Has the size and length pro teams want ... Can make moves inside with a burst to get into backfield ... Doesn't always finish tackles.

**2 (60) DJ Turner, CB, Michigan**
Inconsistent Wolverine and not a ballhawk ... Still, he received some all-conference support in 2021 and '22 ... Good athlete who doesn't get beaten deep ... Smooth strider and very quick ... Struggled in zones ... Lots to build on skill-wise for Cincinnati.

**3 (95) Jordan Battle, S, Alabama**
All-conference player with big-play skills ... Intelligent, sees the field and gets to where the ball is ... Has some ruggedness, too ... Will be a factor against the run, but can be fooled by running backs' maneuvers ... Good hands.

**4 (131) Charlie Jones, WR, Purdue**
Formerly at Iowa ... Not particularly fast, but finds open areas and catches the ball ... Very good hands and knows how to obstruct defenders legally to make receptions ... Helped his QB by staying active during scrambles ... Press coverage will bother him.

**5 (163) Chase Brown, RB, Illinois**
Twin brother Sydney was teammate for Illini, and Chase began career at Western Michigan before heading to Big Ten in 2019 to join him ... Comes off superb final season that earned him some All-American recognition ... His 1,643 yards on the ground ranked fourth in the nation ... Also gets into the end zone ... Never backs down; improves throughout a game ... Fumbles too much and not a good pass protector.

**6 (206) Andrei Iosivas, WR, Princeton**
Has an NFL body and plenty of skill ... Track star who has the talents to be an NFL player ... Varied route tree ... Quick feet and smarts helped him get open, but pros are a far different level than Ivy League ... Too easy to tackle ... Must show more moxie on contested throws.

**6 (217) Brad Robbins, P, Michigan**
Injury history (back) could have been a concern, but Robbins returned from surgery and was steady, at times superb, for Wolverines the last three years ... Puts spin on the ball to make it die deep in opponents' territory ... Won't make many long-range punts, but the directional skill is excellent.

**7 (246) DJ Ivey, S, Miami**
Decent size for Ivey, who didn't stand out much with the Hurricanes, but was steady enough ... Had five picks over his career ... Not much in support in the running game ... Fast enough, though he isn't a burner.

**Good Move:** Battle fills a hole caused by free agency losses and has plenty of upside.
**Tell My Why:** Turner needs more discipline in his play style and was taken kind of high.
**Could Surprise:** Iosivas is a stud athlete who needs to get stronger, but could be a find for Joe Burrow.

## CLEVELAND BROWNS

B-

**3 (74) Cedric Tillman Jr., WR, Tennessee**
Goes 6-3, 215 ... Comes off injury-ravaged 2022 and had ankle surgery ... Not as dangerous a threat as Jalin Hyatt, who went one spot ahead of him to the Giants, but productive and finds the end zone ... Great motor ... Can handle the physicality of the NFL; not afraid

# NFL DRAFT

to mix it up over the middle ... Needs to anticipate quicker against press coverage ... Father Cedric also played in NFL.

### 3 (98) Siaki Ika, DT, Baylor

Former LSU player who has been compared to Vita Vea, and that's a big compliment ... Needs to get down from almost 360 pounds he has played at ... Mobile for his size and recognizes what offenses are trying to do ... Should be disruptive on the next level after two strong seasons at Baylor.

### 4 (111) Dawand Jones, T, Ohio State

Big dude with more than a 7-foot wingspan, though that doesn't always help blockers if they don't use the length efficiently. ... Jones had his share of pancake blocks for the Buckeyes, but he needs to play more in a box than being asked to handle outside plays ... Could wind up at guard for Cleveland until he further masters pocket protection.

### 4 (126) Isaiah McGuire, DE, Missouri

Powerful rusher who can get sloppy ... Uses his hands and power well in the bull rush, and has a nice if inconsistent burst off the snap ... Won't do as much to the outside as he should ... Seems disinterested in stopping the run.

### 5 (140) Dorian Thompson-Robinson, QB, UCLA

Terrific athlete with tons of experience ... Very creative ... Accurate short-range passer with a good feel for what will work. Still, he can make unwise throws and gambles more than he should, leading to turnovers ... Has the tools to make an impression in the pros, especially with his feet. If he is moved from quarterback, he could have value as a kick returner, too.

### 5 (142) Cameron Mitchell, CB, Northwestern

Mitchell had up-and-down career for Wildcats ... Smooth movement and strong instincts ... Not afraid to gamble in coverage, but has been hurt on deep passes because of that ... May be too aggressive.

### 6 (190) Luke Wypler, C, Ohio State

One of several top-level centers in the Big Ten ... Versatile, can handle the power run game and pass protection with aplomb ... Didn't allow a sack in the regular season ... Moves well, is durable ... Likes to mix it up ... A bit sloppy with his stance after snaps at times.

**Good Move:** Ika could step right into a defense in need of new personnel.

**Tell My Why:** Not long after being NFL Coach of the Year, why do we feel Kevin Stefanski is on the hot seat?

**Could Surprise:** Thompson-Robinson has a skill set similar to Deshaun Watson, which could help him make the team.

## DALLAS COWBOYS

**B-**

### 1 (26) Mazi Smith, DT, Michigan

If you loved the Wolverines defense — at least until they met up with TCU — Smith was a main reason ... Powerful, with strong legs and arms ... Won't get overrun in the NFL ... Can he be more efficient against the pass, or does he need to stick at nose tackle and not play three downs?

### 2 (58) Luke Schoonmaker, TE, Michigan

Short-yardage target who picks up first downs ... Team leader for Wolverines, who went to FBS playoffs last two seasons ... He gets banged up and could have limited availability in pros ... Needs more variety in his game ... Highly competitive.

### 3 (90) DeMarvion Overshown, LB, Texas

Former safety ... The move to LB required better tackling and that took time for him at Texas ... Intelligent player who reads plays well ... Never stops coming, but can overrun plays ... Needs more bulk ... Doesn't always finish, but he's raw at linebacker and worth developing.

### 4 (129) Viliami Fehoko Jr., DE, San Jose State

Mountain West's best D-lineman and won top defensive player honor in 2022 ... He might wind up playing inside more than at end down the road ... Highly productive, beats O-linemen before they realize it ... Uses his hands exceptionally well to win battles ... Technique needs work ... Cousin of Bucs star Vita Vea.

### 5 (169) Asim Richards, G/T, North Carolina

Much more a finesse than power guy ... Almost entirely played left side for Tar Heels, using good movement and burst ... Intelligent player with a mean streak he uses wisely rather than indiscriminately ... Inconsistent in pass protection.

### 6 (178) Eric Scott, CB, Southern Mississippi

Formerly at Illinois State ... Good hands and breaks on the ball well ... Very mobile with plenty of hops ... Can be too aggressive in coverage and get burned ... Double moves get to him.

### 6 (212) Deuce Vaughn, RB, Kansas State

You're going to hear frequent comparisons to Darren Sproles because of his lack of size. He also has speed, elusiveness, perseverance and versatility ... A two-time All-American with no fear factor; he led the nation in all-purpose yards in 2022 ... Excellent field vision, should be a factor immediately returning kicks ... Third-down role is possible, too, but his 5-5, 180-pound frame won't allow him to successfully pass block.

### 7 (244) Jalen Brooks, WR, South Carolina

Originally attended Wingate in North Carolina, which actually had a punter selected this year ... Wound up with Gamecocks in 2020 and did little, then had personal issues and dropped out ... When he came back last season, he performed decently, but never was a star ... Off-field problems are a concern ... A real project with good size.

**Good Move:** Schoonmaker fits a need at tight end and, when healthy, is a valuable player.

**Tell My Why:** Smith could be a standout, but he is limited and likely would have been available far later.

**Could Surprise:** Fehoko is a playmaker and will benefit from having Micah Parsons on the same unit.

## DENVER BRONCOS

**B+**

### 2 (63) Marvin Mims Jr., WR, Oklahoma

Can immediately help on punt returns for Denver ... Somewhat unproven, but talented athlete who has much learning to do as a receiver in the NFL ... Game-breaking threat if he comes down with the ball because of speed and ability to break free ... Must show more aggressiveness ... Lots of upside.

### 3 (67) Drew Sanders, EDGE, Arkansas

Sanders won a national championship at Alabama in 2020 ... He got frustrated by lack of playing time at 'Bama; also had injury ... Blossomed at Arkansas with relentless work ... A tackling machine who finds the ball and disrupts plays in run and pass game ... Could play inside or outside for Denver ... Variety of moves in pass rush is impressive ... Not raw despite lack of on-field time before 2022.

C.J. STROUD

Photo by Aaron Doster via AP

### 3 (83) Riley Moss, S/CB, Iowa

Team leader with good hands ... Finds the ball ... Not much speed, which hurts in both run and pass defense ... Might fit best as a safety in the NFL, but has played the corner ... Should be a factor on special teams.

### 6 (183) JL Skinner, S, Boise State

Goes 6-4, 210, so size is a plus ... One of the best defenders in Mountain West the last two seasons ... Very active against the run and a playmaker in pass coverage ... Comes off torn pec, which slowed evaluations this winter ... Strong instincts ... Needs to improve in press coverage situations.

### 7 (257) Alex Forsyth, C, Oregon

Versatile lineman who also has played guard and tackle ... Fundamentally sound, particularly at center ... Very strong anchor and doesn't get beaten up the middle ... Excellent burst off the snap, but can miss blocks by overextending ... Pass protection lags behind work as run blocker ... Worth this spot.

**Good Move:** Sanders was a steal at No. 67; some scouts rated him in top 40.

**Tell My Why:** Moss seems like a third-day guy who is a tweener for the pros.

**Could Surprise:** The final two picks, Skinner and Forsyth, had value where they went.

## DETROIT LIONS

**B**

### 1 (12) Jahmyr Gibbs, RB, Alabama

Versatile back and something special returning kicks ... Formerly played at Georgia Tech, spent 2022 with the Crimson Tide and made a strong impact ... Excels in the passing game ... Uses his speed outside extremely well; also bursts through gaps ... Should be a contributor immediately in Detroit, though his blocking is weak and he doesn't break a lot of tackles.

### 1 (18) Jack Campbell, LB, Iowa

Butkus Award winner in 2022; makes plays everywhere ... Dynamic on and off the field; won academic awards as well ... Strictly an inside guy in the NFL; has the size, power and want-to for mixing it up ... Good leader ... Better against the run, but has skills in zone pass coverage that Detroit should take advantage of ... Might need to improve avoiding blockers better and he isn't fast.

### 2 (34) Sam LaPorta, TE, Iowa

The home of skilled tight ends for the last decade ... LaPorta isn't George Kittle or T.J. Hockenson, at least not yet ... Not much of a blocker for the pro level, but as a pass-catcher he's strong and quick ... Has mastered a sizable group of routes ... Good hands.

### 2 (45) Brian Branch, S, Alabama

Typical Nick Saban player who is intelligent and never stops coming ... Can play nickel back as well as safety ... Likes to play the run and does it well ... Can handle tight ends in coverage ... Hasn't played much deep, would need to adjust in pros.

### 3 (68) Hendon Hooker, QB, Tennessee

Excellent size at 6-2, 217 ... Formerly at Virginia Tech ... Had Hooker not torn his ACL late in the season, he would have been a much higher selection ... Makes big plays with accuracy, consistency and a nice flair ... Needs to learn more about reading defenses, though ... Doesn't panic in the pocket, but also can stay too long there and get sacked ... Rarely throws into danger ... Not the best passer on the move — yet.

### 3 (96) Brodric Martin, DT, Western Kentucky

Originally played at North Alabama, where he was not very productive ... Moved to Hilltoppers in 2021 and was far more productive, especially last year ... Has the size and strength inside the pros covet ... Gets off the ball well and with suddenness that causes blockers problems ... Still, he needs more moves in the NFL and can too often lose one-on-one battles.

### 5 (152) Colby Sorsdal, T/G, William & Mary

Started for all five years in college ... Good leader and one of the top blockers in FCS, but probably will move inside in NFL ... Not particularly strong, especially his lower body ... Gets off the snap well on run plays.

### 7 (219) Antoine Green, WR, North Carolina

Won't do a lot on shorter routes or as a possession guy, but has

the speed to get deep regularly ... Has some cleverness to his deep routes ... That said, NFL DBs rarely fall for them ... Can rise up to make catches ... Fundamentals need lots of work.

**Good Move:** Branch is versatile, smart and will fit very nicely in Detroit's secondary.

**Tell My Why:** Gibbs probably could have been selected much later, but maybe Bijan Robinson going eighth overall made the Lions nervous.

**Could Surprise:** Down the road, when fully recovered from his knee injury, Hooker is a bargain where Detroit got him.

## GREEN BAY PACKERS

**B**

### 1 (13) Lukas Van Ness, EDGE, Iowa

Versatile player on defense and special teams ... His nickname should tell you about his build: "Hercules" ... Great burst, which gets blockers off balance ... Finds the ball and gets there, though he doesn't always finish ... Doesn't always use his hands properly, something that can be cured with coaching.

### 2 (42) Luke Musgrave, TE, Oregon State

Solid prospect if he uses his inherent skills that didn't always show for the Beavers ... One of faster TEs in this draft ... Doesn't always find open spaces, though he can break big plays ... Comes off injury-shortened season that makes his puzzle more, uh, puzzling ... Blocking needs work ... Nephew of former NFL QB and coach Bill Musgrave.

### 2 (50) Jayden Reed, WR, Michigan State

Returning kicks seems his 2022 destiny in Green Bay, but there's an opening for regular receiving duty ... Needs works on his routes and concentration ... Made some big plays in big games for Spartans ... YAC a plus ... Drops the ball at times.

### 3 (78) Tucker Kraft, TE, South Dakota State

Not North Dakota State, the perennial FCS power, but another excellent school at that level ... Kraft had his best season in 2021 both receiving and blocking ... Big target who shows well to the QB ... Tough to bring down ... Not fast, and a bit inconsistent ... Worth this spot for Packers.

### 4 (116) Colby Wooden, DL, Auburn

In the SEC, where there are dozens of top prospects on the defensive line, Wooden stands out for his skill to get to the ball ... Also can block passes ... Bursts off the line and gets through gaps before blockers are even set ... Uses hands effectively ... Isn't as proficient chasing to the sidelines.

### 5 (149) Sean Clifford, QB, Penn State

Very experienced; comes off terrific Rose Bowl ... Moves well, not afraid to get hit, but often avoided big hits in college ... Does best work on shorter passes ... Doesn't always stay in the pocket when he could ... Gives away plays with his eyes at times.

### 5 (159) Dontayvion Wicks, WR, Virginia

Wicks played well when healthy, but had a few injuries at Virginia ... Hands are questionable; too many drops ... When he is in the groove, he can make the big play ... Routes are relatively varied, but not always sharp ... A project.

### 6 (179) Karl Brooks, DL, Bowling Green

Highly experienced playmaker in MAC ... All-conference guy who finds the quarterback and gets him down ... Very mobile, intelligent performer ... Always seems to be balanced ... Not as powerful against the run as he needs to be ... Worth this spot.

### 6 (207) Anders Carlson, K, Auburn

Brother of Raiders star kicker Daniel Carlson ... Extremely dependable kicker who progressed for most of his career with Tigers ... Very competitive; was injured trying to recover an onside kick in 2021 ... Doesn't have deep range like his brother.

### 7 (232) Carrington Valentine, CB, Kentucky

Somewhat an underachiever given size, mobility and instincts. Should have finished off more plays than he did for Wildcats ... Was used as a blitzer at times in college ... Has the thought process to be a safety ... Susceptible to drawing flags.

### 7 (235) Lew Nichols III, RB, Central Michigan

Highly productive back in the MAC ... In 2021, Nichols was the nation's leading rusher in a conference often plagued by bad weather ... Injuries damaged his senior year, though ... Can pick up the dirty yards and won't back off ... Carries tacklers for extra yards at times ... Not elusive and takes too many hits.

### 7 (242) Anthony Johnson Jr., S, Iowa State

Not to be confused with Texas A&M's Antonio Johnson ... Former CB who fit well as a safety because of his hitting ability and willingness to use it ... Plays to the whistle and sometimes beyond, might need to tone that down in pros ... One of Cyclones' team leaders ... A bit raw, so patience needed here.

### 7 (256) Grant DuBose, WR, Charlotte

Started out at Miles College in the SIAC ... Came to Charlotte in 2021 and was its top receiver ... Comes off solid 2022, displaying skill on contested balls ... Recognizes what defenses are trying to do and can adjust ... Raw, but worth a look here.

**Good Move:** Giving Jordan Love three potential weapons in first two days made sense.

**Tell My Why:** Reed didn't seem to be nearly the best value at No. 50 with other receivers on the board. But Pack liked his big-play ability.

**Could Surprise:** Wooden has the talent to be a starter very soon.

## HOUSTON TEXANS

**A-**

### 1 (2) C.J. Stroud, QB, Ohio State

Good size, arm strength ... Gets rid of the ball before defenders can trap him ... Excels on short throws, but can get the ball deep, too ... Feeds the receiver perfectly so he can get YAC ... Very solid outside the pocket ... Generally performed his best in big games, though Michigan had Ohio State's number the last two years ... Goes down on the first hit when scrambling ... Should be a long-term starter for Houston.

### 1 (3) Will Anderson Jr., DE, Alabama

Maybe the best overall player in this crop ... A stud from the time he first suited up for the Tide, a frequent All-American and awards winner ... Can make every kind of rush, using excellent footwork, strength and hand usage ... Anchors well ... Not only can secure the edge, but blows through gaps as well ... One of the top DL prospects in the last decade and a positive locker-room presence.

### 2 (62) Juice Scruggs, C, Penn State

Survived a serious auto accident ... One full season as starter at center, learned quickly for Nittany Lions ... Gets off snaps well to make first contact stick ... Can slide each way and probably pull effectively ... Can be caught off balance ... Not quite on the level of the other elite centers in Big Ten, but a potential NFL starter.

### 3 (69) Nathaniel Dell, WR, Houston

Nicknamed "Tank." ... Short for NFL at 5-8 ... Played at two other schools before landing in Houston ... Highly productive the last two seasons as a receiver and punt returner ... Can get open on any route as long as he isn't overwhelmed physically. Then, watch out ... Makes big plays, but also drops the ball far too often.

### 4 (109) Dylan Horton, EDGE, Texas Christian

Difficult to find a position for Horton, who can defend the pass but can be, well, run over in the run game ... Sloppy technique ... Unless he improves his overall game, he'll be a situational pass rusher for Texans ... Horton has a variety of moves to get to the passer, but must do better bringing him down.

### 5 (167) Henry To'oTo'o, LB, Alabama

Formerly at Tennessee, where he was a Freshman All-American, To'oTo'o also had a strong sophomore season in Knoxville before transferring ... His numbers weren't quite as impressive for the Tide, where he had more help all around him ... Still, an All-SEC performer last year, he always is in position ... Not particularly fast, yet he makes plays inside and outside ... Should be a force on special teams.

### 6 (201) Jarrett Patterson, C, Notre Dame

Consistent player throughout lengthy college career ... Excels in run game; must show more in pass protection ... Should be able to pull on run plays in pros ... Competitive guy with leadership skills ... Is he strong enough to handle NFL power guys?

### 6 (205) Xavier Hutchinson, WR, Iowa State

Not particularly productive, but he improved throughout his college career ... Not fast, but clever enough to get open with moves and moxie ... Good hands ... Won't always be able to adjust when things break down on called plays ... A project worth a look.

### 7 (248) Brandon Hill, S, Pittsburgh

Pretty good coverage safety, but not a big impact guy against the run ... Fundamentals as a tackler are weak and he can be too aggressive ... Can be late to make plays ... That said, when he arrives, he finishes ... Not particularly instinctive.

**Good Move:** Showing more aggression in the draft than on the field, the Texans soared up to get the best defender in this draft, Anderson.

**Tell My Why:** Horton could have a tough time making even this roster.

**Could Surprise:** Patterson has a chance, if he's strong enough to make an impact.

## INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

**B**

### 1 (4) Anthony Richardson, QB, Florida

So much to build on here — if Indy is patient ... Tall (6-3) and solidly built (244 pounds) ... Dangerous with the ball in his hands, a mismatch for many defenders ... Very strong arm and he gets rid of the ball quickly ... Poor footwork ... Lots to learn as a passer and overall quarterback ... Richardson has been compared to Cam Newton, Jalen Hurts and a few others, but he is far more raw than any QB in this or most other classes.

### 2 (44) Julius Brents, CB, Kansas State

Strong workouts and Combine helped his stock ... Tall and long at 6-3, 200; could wind up at safety ... Not particularly fast, but explosive ... Can hit and finish tackles ... Would help Colts on kick coverages, too.

### 3 (79) Josh Downs, WR, North Carolina

Short receiver at 5-9, but productive in college when healthy ... Figures to be returning punts immediately for Indy ... Creative player with brilliant footwork at times and lots of moves ... Doesn't shy away ... Intelligent route runner and has some big-time hops ... Too many drops, which look like a concentration issue rather than bad hands.

### 4 (106) Blake Freeland, T, Brigham Young

Highly experienced tackle who has played both sides ... Might project on right side initially for Colts ... Does his best work in the passing game, though he could use some tinkering with his fundamentals ... Needs to add strength and show he can overpower defenders in the run game.

### 4 (110) Adetomiwa Adebawore, DL, Northwestern

Strong body; gets off the snap and uses it well ... Versatile, could play inside or outside, but needs to bulk up for DT ... Good postseason, including Senior Bowl ... Utilizes hands very nicely ... Must show he can make power moves ... Tackling needs upgrade.

### 5 (138) Darius Rush, CB, South Carolina

Key contributor to the Gamecocks' turnaround ... Comes off strong Senior Bowl that raised his stock ... Might also fit at safety for Colts ... Great motor ... Can struggle a bit when he has to backpedal in coverage.

### 5 (158) Daniel Scott, S, California

Team leader for Golden Bears, experienced and versatile ... Should help Indy right away on special teams ... Fits best in zone coverages; doesn't have the mobility to match up in man ... Very active all over the field, but can be too aggressive ... Worth a look here.

### 5 (162) Will Mallory, TE, Miami

Mallory improved throughout his five years with Hurricanes ... Finds the seams, especially on third downs ... Solid in the red zone ... Can break some plays ... Not the greatest hands ... Much more a target than a blocker.

### 5 (176) Evan Hull, RB, Northwestern

Versatile player whose best feature is his pass catching ... Also can return kicks ... Excellent balance, which helps him overcome lack of mobility ... Not much in pass protection ... Won't back down from a challenge.

### 6 (211) Titus Leo, DE, Wagner

The rare kid from Brooklyn who gets drafted ... Doesn't have many pass-rush moves, but the ones he has work ... Great burst off the snap ... Long arms he uses well ... Can be overpowered ... Upside is big, but making roster this year is a long shot.

### 7 (221) Jaylon Jones, CB, Texas A&M
One of those all-around athletes the Aggies often recruit ... Struggled early on, but improved immensely last season ... Excels against the run game and handles coverage in front of him well. But can be beaten deep and will need to upgrade that area of his game ... Never stops coming.

### 7 (236) Jake Witt, T, Northern Michigan
Former basketball player, very inexperienced at football, where he was a tight end before becoming a lineman ... Had a big 2022 season and workouts to get on the radar ... Very mobile ... So much to learn, but the raw talent is there.

**Good Move:** Indianapolis improved its roster with so many picks, highlighted by Brents and Freeland.
**Tell My Why:** After so many one-year options at QB, why not build with Richardson?
**Could Surprise:** Richardson might become Peyton Manning or Andrew Luck. But it will take time and patience.

## JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS
**B+**

### 1 (27) Anton Harrison, T, Oklahoma
The Sooners were underachieving in 2022, but Harrison wasn't, especially as a pass blocker ... Mobile and with good balance, but can lumber at times as a run blocker ... Very experienced on the left side ... Jacksonville shouldn't expect him to be a road grader, but he's fundamentally sound in most areas.

### 2 (61) Brenton Strange, TE, Penn State
Good player with upside and great motor ... Tough to knock off his routes and to tackle ... Can break free to make big plays ... Solid enough blocker ... Sometimes wanders on his patterns ... Questionable hands that must improve.

### 3 (88) Tank Bigsby, RB, Auburn
Auburn struggled recently, but Bigsby wasn't the reason ... Led the Tigers in rushing the last two seasons and also is a weapon as a receiver ... Finds the end zone ... Runs too upright at times ... Must improve ball security ... Can be a big-play guy to the outside for Jags.

### 4 (121) Ventrell Miller, LB, Florida
Miller has no problem mixing it up in the trenches ... Good fundamentals, which can be rare for Gators defenders ... Recognizes schemes and plays to combat them ... Still, his lack of speed and quickness are issues ... Fits best against the run and Jaguars need to keep him away from man coverage ... Special teams are calling.

### 4 (130) Tyler Lacy, DE, Oklahoma State
Gets off the snap like a rocket, but doesn't always win those battles ... Has the strength and length, but not necessarily the mechanics to win in the trenches ... Lacy developed some moves in his itinerary he will need at Jacksonville ... More of a situational prospect right now.

### 5 (136) Yasir Abdullah, LB, Louisville
Very experienced and accomplished college player ... Knocks the ball loose ... Not easy to predict what sort of scheme fits Abdullah best in NFL ... Not big, but active and strong ... Has a good sense for what offenses are trying to do ... Fundamentally sound ... Can be negated by long-armed blockers.

### 5 (160) Antonio Johnson, CB/S, Texas A&M
Excellent size at 6-2, 205 ... Safety probably a better fit because he lacks agility in pass defense, though he has good straight-line movement ... Long and lean, has a good feel for the ball, with decent hands ... Won't handle the Tyreek Hills of the NFL ... Best chance to play early might be on special teams.

### 6 (185) Parker Washington, WR, Penn State
Missed the end of last season with injury, limiting his production after two strong seasons ... Gets into the end zone ... Elusive; uses that skill best on punt runbacks ... Diligent player and learner, popular with teammates ... Route tree needs work, doesn't break quickly enough ... Worth a look for his special-teams value ... Cousin is QB Josh Dobbs.

### 6 (202) Christian Braswell, CB, Rutgers
Recovers well when beaten to limit damage, but is that a plus? ... Good instincts on plays near the line of scrimmage ... Seems to handle blockers well in the open field ... Fundamentals are so-so.

### 6 (208) Erick Hallett II, S, Pittsburgh
Hallett didn't answer his phone when team called that he was selected ... Short at 5-9 for the position ... Still, he doesn't back down and is a ballhawk ... Fast enough for the position and showed well in workouts, but his size is a concern.

### 7 (226) Cooper Hodges, G/T, Appalachian State
Film doesn't show a lot, but he started at a good program for four years ... Leader; doesn't back down ... Limited mobility and can struggle maintaining a block ... Deserves a shot because of his attitude, but does he have NFL talent?

### 7 (227) Raymond Vohasek, DL, North Carolina
Former JUCO player ... Could wind up on the outside in Jacksonville ... Has some versatility and was consistent enough to get some all-conference recognition in 2021 ... Was injured for half of 2022.

### 7 (240) Derek Parish, DE, Houston
Comes off torn biceps that shortened his final season ... Has good instincts on the edge; doesn't do much inside ... Great motor and aggressiveness, but can be overpowered ... Pretty mobile and quick ... Could aid on special teams.

**Good Move:** The PED suspension for Cam Robinson made selecting a tackle early a must and the Jags got it right.
**Tell My Why:** The Jaguars can contend for a Super Bowl soon, maybe even 2023.
**Could Surprise:** Any of the DBs, all of whom could contribute on special teams.

## KANSAS CITY CHIEFS
**B-**

### 1 (31) Felix Anudike-Uzomah, DE, Kansas State
Injuries slowed him last season after a big 2021 ... A sack machine for the Wildcats who also knocks the ball free from ball-carriers ... Very productive when opponents pass, not so much when they run the ball ... Great motor and popular with teammates ... Will finish when he finds the ball ... Kind of raw for the pros, with lots of upside.

### 2 (55) Rashee Rice, WR, Southern Methodist
Very inconsistent player who plays hurt ... Has the size and mobility to make it, and he can get deep ... Good jumper who wins those battles ... Must upgrade his routes ... SMU has had better WR prospects, but once Andy Reid gets to work with him, who knows?

### 3 (92) Wanya Morris, T, Oklahoma
Formerly at Tennessee, spent last two seasons with Sooners at right tackle ... Also could be groomed as a guard, but Chiefs must be patient ... Good movement and likes to mix it up inside ... Needs to upgrade pass protection, in which he is inconsistent.

### 4 (119) Chamarri Conner, CB/S, Virginia Tech
Experienced player who has a feel for the ball and can rush the passer ... Big, strong ... Misses a lot of tackles, doesn't wrap up and can overrun plays ... Super aggressive and it rubbed off on teammates ... Not fast, won't be reliable against deep passes.

### 5 (166) BJ Thompson, DE, Stephen F. Austin
Formerly at Baylor, fit better on lower level with Lumberjacks ... Finds his way to the ball and into the backfield ... Terrific athlete ... Raw, must show more variety in everything he does ... A project worth a look.

### 6 (194) Keondre Coburn, DT, Texas
Inconsistent, but when he makes plays he looks worthy of a much higher pick ... Nose guy at 345 pounds; must show more get-at-it attitude ... Can win some one-on-one confrontations, but can lose a lot of them too ... Another project for KC.

### 7 (250) Nic Jones, CB, Ball State
Aggressive player with a good feel for the ball ... Tall and rangy enough; can handle press coverage ... Fundamentally sound in coverage, but not against the run ... Can be fooled on routes and fall way behind ... Has had some injury issues ... Should find a role on special teams if he sticks.

**Good Move:** Down the road, several good choices, including the top one.
**Tell My Why:** We dare you to give us a way the Chiefs won't win yet another division title.
**Could Surprise:** Thompson might not explode this year, but he has that kind of potential.

## LAS VEGAS RAIDERS
**A**

### 1 (7) Tyree Wilson, DE, Texas Tech
Goes 6-6, 270 ... Not quite in the class of Will Anderson Jr., but not that far off ... Formerly at A&M ... Comes off a strong senior season, but also off a foot injury ... Length is a plus; will block passes and possibly kicks ... A threat for a sack on any play ... Not as effective with his hands as you'd want ... With some improvement on fundamentals, he should be a dominator for Raiders.

### 2 (35) Michael Mayer, TE, Notre Dame
A difficult Combine performance raised some doubts, but anyone looking at Mayer's tape knows he's a stud ... Top-level receiver despite not having top-level QBs at Notre Dame ... Finds the end zone ... Excels settling into seams, then breaking free for longer gains ... Gets into his routes quickly and finishes them off ... Superb blocker when he doesn't get sloppy ... Won't overpower anyone, though ... His nickname says a lot: "Baby Gronk."

### 3 (70) Byron Young, DL, Alabama
Yet another promising line prospect from the Crimson Tide ... Never stops coming, and plays with intelligence ... Good hands, rarely gets them out of position ... Can play outside with regularity for Raiders if that's what they want ... Might need work on his balance, but he's a good learner.

### 3 (100) Tre Tucker, WR, Cincinnati
Another track guy who turned into a solid college player ... Could have a quick impact for Raiders on kick returns ... Must bulk up for the NFL's physicality ... Good motor and has some variety to his moves ... Could be a threat on screens ... Hands aren't special.

### 4 (104) Jakorian Bennett, CB, Maryland
Seems to fit best as a zone defender ... Strong tackler ... Good but not great hands ... Highly competitive ... A bit awkward with his feet and vulnerable to double moves ... Fundamentals can use some work.

### 4 (135) Aidan O'Connell, QB, Purdue
O'Connell led Boilermakers to some big wins against better teams ... Still, he is inconsistent, and his junior season was better than 2022 ... He can be a bit of a statue in the pocket, but he also is fearless ... Accurate with most passes and with strong coaching can master all throws ... Recognizes when to check off ... Not a scrambler and doesn't have the strongest arm to the sidelines.

### 5 (170) Christopher Smith II, S, Georgia
All-American who spent five strong seasons with Bulldogs ... Not particularly big, but plays bigger ... Steady in coverage and doesn't get beaten deep ... Does his best work moving forward, especially to stop the run ... Pretty good hands ... Might get time on special teams.

### 6 (203) Amari Burney, LB, Florida
Very inconsistent. When he's good, Burney looks like a star. But he doesn't maintain that level ... Good speed and anticipation ... Seems to lose focus, though ... Mostly a backup for the Gators.

### 7 (231) Nesta Jade Silvera, DT, Arizona State
Formerly a Miami Hurricane who spent final season in Tempe ... Takes up space to close gaps versus the run ... Good burst off snap ... Can be tied up by blockers, though ... Not likely to do much in the sacks category.

**Good Move:** Mayer replaces Darren Waller and Wilson could be eventual replacement for Chandler Jones. Well done.
**Tell My Why:** Hard to find fault anywhere here; perhaps Burney doesn't bring a lot of value.
**Could Surprise:** The Raiders have not had good fortune with recent DB picks, but Smith has a chance to shine.

## LOS ANGELES CHARGERS
**B**

### 1 (21) Quentin Johnston, WR, Texas Christian
Leading target for Horned Frogs in their big 2022 season ... Good

size and speed, can get deep consistently ... Very good on jump balls, can handle physicality of DBs ... Smooth strides ... Had some down periods last season, a possible cause for alarm ... Technique needs work.

### 2 (54) Tuli Tuipulotu, DE, Southern Cal

Family tradition at Trojans: Tuli's brother played at USC, as did his cousin, 49ers All-Pro safety Talanoa Hufanga. Now Tuli gets to stay local ... An All-American who could be dominant at times in 2022 ... A sack master who got 13.5 of them and had 22 TFLs last season, but could use more moves ... Could see action inside for Chargers.

### 3 (85) Daiyan Henley, LB, Washington State

Rugged player on the inside who can overrun plays, but also chase down a bunch of opponents ... Could turn into a three-down LB in the NFL ... Definitely could have a role on special teams with his relentless pursuit and range ... Gets off blockers quickly ... Needs more patience at times.

### 4 (125) Derius Davis, WR, Texas Christian

Former track star and outstanding kick returner ... Big 12's top special teamer in 2022, a threat to break any return ... Using his footwork and speed, he could be a force in the slot and on deep patterns for LA. ... But first, he will be a kick returner ... Must learn to run pro-level routes.

### 5 (156) Jordan McFadden, G/T, Clemson

Highly experienced team leader at Clemson ... A tackle in college who projects at guard with Chargers ... Can be a pile-driving influence in the run game ... Solid fundamentals ... Rarely stopped with blocking in trenches and sought more battles on second level ... Needs to upgrade his hand usage and awareness on bull rushes.

### 6 (200) Scott Matlock, DT, Boise State

Might not succeed inside against bigger and more powerful blockers ... Experienced player and team captain ... Good burst off the snap ... Not as quick as he needs laterally ... Lots of room to improve.

### 7 (239) Max Duggan, QB, Texas Christian

Lost his starting job, got it back, then led Horned Frogs to national title game ... Great competitor and leader ... Excellent mobility and escapes the rush well, and can take a hit despite not being big ... Doesn't have an NFL-level arm ... Also stares at his planned targets.

**Good Move:** Second- and third-round selections were wise and should upgrade the defense quickly.

**Tell My Why:** Johnston's inconsistencies are worrisome, but he will be the No. 3 wideout this season and can develop.

**Could Surprise:** McFadden has the makings of a starter for a team that drafts well on the line.

## LOS ANGELES RAMS

**A-**

### 2 (36) Steve Avila, C/G, Texas Christian

Could wind up at guard ... Powerful run blocker who doesn't back off ... Former guard coming off huge season as Horned Frogs played for national championship ... Intelligent player with a strong feel for what every lineman needs to do ... Must show he can do more than play in a short space in pass game and that he can handle speed rushers.

### 3 (77) Byron Young, EDGE, Tennessee

Former JUCO player who made solid impact in Knoxville ... All-conference in SEC on defense is impressive and he earned that last year ... Great burst off the snap ... Relies more on athletic skill and instinct than on technique and fundamentals ... Enthusiasm is contagious ... Good place to learn from veteran team.

### 3 (89) Kobie Turner, DT, Wake Forest

Formerly at Richmond, where he starred in FCS ... Spent final college season with Deacons and was active and accomplished ... Strong hands he uses to win battles in the trenches ... Doesn't back off, either ... Movement is questionable to the outside ... Not a big threat against the passing game.

### 4 (128) Stetson Bennett, QB, Georgia

Two-time national champion, which says a lot ... Yes, Bennett had dominant defenses supporting him, but when the Bulldogs needed him to produce, he did so — particularly in 2022 playoffs against Ohio State ... Fearless despite being small for a QB ... His inconsistencies and lack of measurables often have been overcome by his ability in the clutch ... Reads defenses very well ... Has escapability ... Has had some off-field issues and is 25-years-old.

# NFL DRAFT

### 5 (161) Nick Hampton, EDGE, Appalachian State

One of the Sun Belt's top sack masters, had 18 sacks over the last two seasons ... Has had some injury issues ... Kind of one-dimensional and must upgrade his run defense ... Can be overpowered in run game ... Has nice assortment of moves while rushing the passer.

### 5 (174) Warren McClendon, G/T, Georgia

Like teammate Broderick Jones, McClendon is an experienced winner ... Popular player with leadership skills ... Effort never stops, which makes up for some issues with strength and lack of spurt ... Has some trouble with taller pass rushers.

### 5 (175) Davis Allen, TE, Clemson

Mostly an in-line blocker for the Tigers ... Has the body to handle the position in the pros, but does he have the other skills? ... Not lumbering, but not quick and won't get deep ... Likes the rugged part of being a tight end — in the trenches.

### 5 (177) Puka Nacua, WR, Brigham Young

Non-stop motor and aggressive attitude helped Nacua overachieve for Cougars ... Good hands and body control ... Can be dangerous on reverses and sweeps ... Not a deep threat ... Will make it difficult for Rams to cut him, but he's not a game-breaker.

### 6 (182) Tre'Vius Hodges-Tomlinson, CB, Texas Christian

At 5-foot-8, might have issues with taller receivers ... One of the nation's top defensive backs; made plays all over the field to win Jim Thorpe Award ... Experienced, intelligent, hard worker ... Can jump out of the stadium ... Must show his size won't be a hindrance; everything else is there ... Nephew of Hall of Famer LaDainian Tomlinson.

### 6 (189) Ochaun Mathis, DE, Nebraska

Very productive at Texas Christian, then headed to Nebraska for 2022 and mostly was a rotational guy on a mediocre defense ... Looks weak at times; must bulk up in the NFL ... Length and strong hands a plus ... Shows up at times where you don't expect him and gets to the ball-carrier ... A project.

### 6 (215) Zach Evans, RB, Mississippi

Formerly at Texas Christian, Evans has battled through some injuries in college ... Consistent runner who averaged 6.5 yards a carry for Mississippi and 6.9 for his entire career ... Doesn't go down on the first hit very often ... Good mobility and power, but also fumbles ... Lots of YAC yards on his resume'.

### 7 (223) Ethan Evans, P, Wingate

Wingate? Isn't that a hotel chain? ... Actually, Evans was the best punter in Division II and perhaps the best on any level in 2022 ... Also kicks off ... Must improve placement of kicks rather than always going for the deep one.

### 7 (234) Jason Taylor II, S, Oklahoma State

Two-year starter who was everywhere for the Cowboys in 2022 ... Made 80 solo tackles, a very impressive number, as a senior ... Opponents remembered it when he hit them, but he also missed a bunch of tackles in college ... Long arms for coverage duties ... Also can pick off passes ... Could be a special-teams demon in LA.

### 7 (259) Desjuan Johnson, DL, Toledo

Efficient and experienced player ... Hard worker who isn't big, but plays big ... Good use of his hands against bigger blockers ... Not much of an edge rusher, might wind up inside.

**Good Move:** Avila and McClendon both could become starters at some point.

**Tell My Why:** Why can't the Rams rebound from their awful Super Bowl defense?

**Could Surprise:** Rams have had some luck with a Georgia QB (Matt Stafford), so maybe Bennett can follow that path.

## MIAMI DOLPHINS

**C+**

### 2 (51) Cam Smith, CB, South Carolina

Good instincts help him overcome some awkwardness ... Closes well on passes with explosion ... Much better than most in covering screens and slants ... Much too handsy at times ... Some injury issues in college ... Did some of his best work against top SEC competition ... Jumps well and tracks the ball.

### 3 (84) Devon Achane, RB, Texas A&M

Veteran Aggie who was the MVP of the Orange Bowl as a freshman ... Lots of big-play potential, in part thanks to his track background ... Despite his lack of bulk, he's a willing runner inside. Will he succeed there in the NFL? ... Could have a big role on special teams and as a receiving threat ... Doesn't have the best hands, though that could be a focusing issue.

### 6 (197) Elijah Higgins, TE, Stanford

Will begin as tight end with Dolphins at 6-3, 235 ... Has learned how to run several routes at WR that would help at TE ... Then again, his blocking won't be special there ... Has some H-back qualities, too ... Can break away from tacklers ... Won't be a deep threat ... While he's big, hard to tell how strong he is.

### 7 (238) Ryan Hayes, T, Michigan

Michigan has been strong on the O-line recently and Hayes is a reason ... Sound fundamentally ... Never stops coming ... Uses his hands well ... Probably will get a look at guard because he seems slow afoot.

**Good Move:** Smith isn't likely to be an immediate starter, but he will find a role in the secondary.

**Tell My Why:** The Dolphins owner thought he could get away with tampering that cost Miami a first-round pick.

**Could Surprise:** Of the four selections, Hayes might have the best chance for instant success.

## MINNESOTA VIKINGS

**B-**

### 1 (23) Jordan Addison, WR, Southern Cal

Former standout at Pitt, where he won the Biletnikoff Award, Addison was a headline transfer to USC in 2022 ... Made all-conference for the Trojans and helped his quarterback win the Heisman Trophy ... Also a danger on kick returns ... Excels on all routes all over the field ... Very quick feet ... YAC a positive, too ... Doesn't always handle physical DBs well ... Not particularly big; needs to bulk up a bit.

### 3 (102) Mekhi Blackmon, CB, Southern Cal

Formerly at Colorado, where he struggled ... Spent his fifth and final college season for Trojans and was active, though USC defense was porous ... Showed ability to cover TEs ... Likes to press and doesn't often get beaten off the line ... Not much help in run game and can be overpowered.

### 4 (134) Jay Ward, S, Louisiana State

Not always a starter at LSU, but generally a contributor ... Comes after opponents on every play ... Excels against the run — if he can add some weight he could become a safety ... Can be fooled in the passing game, gambles a bit ... Should prosper on kick teams.

### 5 (141) Jaquelin Roy, DT, Louisiana State

Could be a three-down player for Vikings ... Difficult to move one-on-one, anchors well and then can explode off the snap ... Blocks passes and should be able to help on special teams blocking kicks ... Recognizes where the ball is going and can get there ... Doesn't always come with everything, might need to show more endurance.

### 5 (164) Jaren Hall, QB, Brigham Young

Former baseball player ... Hall has a history of concussions and other injuries, also served a mission, as most BYU players have ... Last year was, by far, his coming-out party that included 31 touchdown passes and only six picks ... Intelligent player who relies on savvy to overcome some athletic flaws ... Nearly always delivers a catchable ball in the right spot for receivers ... Never backs down ... A project at this key position.

### 7 (222) DeWayne McBride, RB, Alabama-Birmingham

Very productive player who can gain yards inside and outside ... Main issue: fumbles ... Has a series of cuts he uses to break big plays ... Very good in the red zone ... Can he help in the passing game? No evidence of that at UAB.

**Good Move:** Addison should replace Adam Thielen capably on the field, if not in the locker room.

**Tell My Why:** Minnesota's downfall was defense in the playoffs, but it added offense at the top.

**Could Surprise:** Ward needs to upgrade his coverage, but can be a force on special teams this season.

# NFL DRAFT

## NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

**B**

**1 (17) Christian Gonzalez, CB, Oregon**
Good size at 6-1, 200 ... Formerly played at Colorado, had his best season in 2022 for Ducks ... Very fast and smooth ... Can cover all routes and when off pace, he can recover quickly ... Not fundamentally sound as a tackler nor as instinctive in run defense ... Could start immediately for New England.

**2 (46) Keion White, DL, Georgia Tech**
Formerly at Old Dominion, White became a factor for the Yellow Jackets in 2022 ... Gets to the QB ... Mobile with a nice burst off the snap ... Also uses his hands well ... Is a bit raw at DE ... Not as effective against the run ... A worthwhile pick for Patriots.

**3 (76) Marte Mapu, LB, Sacramento State**
Big Sky's top defender last season ... Active, finds the ball ... Probably works best inside at LB or as a safety ... Coverage of speedy opponents could be a problem ... Aggressive hitter, but also can be blocked by one man.

**4 (107) Jake Andrews, C, Troy**
Played all three O-line positions before settling at center and making all-conference squad ... Very strong technique, using hands well and setting a solid base ... Excellent push off the snap ... Won't do much outside of his small territory inside.

**4 (112) Chad Ryland, K, Maryland**
The keys with any kicker on this team are can he handle nasty weather, and can he handle comparisons with Adam Vinatieri, Stephen Gostkowski and Nick Folk? ... Terrific athlete who originally went to Eastern Michigan ... Spent his final season with Terps and was consistent in all situations ... Nails deep kickoffs.

**4 (117) Sidy Sow, G, Eastern Michigan**
Canada native who actually played for the national team ... Also has played tackle, but made all-conference last two seasons as a guard ... Pass-rush recognition can be an issue ... Inconsistent, but uses his hands very well ... Fundamentals need work.

**5 (144) Atonio Mafi, G, UCLA**
Formerly a defensive lineman who moved to guard in 2020 ... Had his best season last year to get on the draft map ... Takes up a lot of space ... Doesn't move well and needs to play in short areas ... Does get off the snap on run plays ... A project.

**6 (187) Kayshon Boutte, WR, Louisiana State**
Ankle problems and surgeries curtailed his college career ... Didn't contribute much last year and there were questions about his interest in still being in school ... Made some huge plays in big games for LSU ... Has a nice route tree and effective moves ... Drops the ball, partly due to lack of focus ... Could work out on return teams as rookie.

**6 (192) Bryce Baringer, P, Michigan State**
Baringer took a strange route to regular punting job for Spartans: Transferred from Illinois to weak debut for Michigan State; cut from squad and became photo assistant for team; returned and became standout ... All-America punter last season ... Super-strong leg ... Also could kick off in the pros ... Gets more distance than height on most punts.

**6 (210) Demario Douglas, WR, Liberty**
Likely to spend more time returning kicks this season for Patriots ... Needs work on his routes, but Douglas has the quickness and burst to learn ... Must show he has pro hands to make tough receptions and hold onto the ball on returns ... Not big enough to win jump balls.

**6 (214) Ameer Speed, CB, Michigan State**
Long-time player at Georgia, including 2021 national championship, then transferred to Spartans ... Outstanding on special teams, which is where he seems to fit with Patriots ... Active enough as a tackler, but not his strength ... Hands are questionable.

**7 (245) Isaiah Bolden, CB, Jackson State**
Sizable cornerback like the Patriots seek ... Gets after opponents, but also can fall far behind in coverage ... Strong enough to reroute WRs ... Should have a role returning kicks in New England.

**Good Move:** Not only getting Gonzalez after trading down, but damaging the Jets by the deal moving up Pittsburgh so it could get a tackle New York wanted, Broderick Jones.
**Tell My Why:** Clearly, the Patriots were very concerned about special teams despite other key needs.
**Could Surprise:** David Andrews has been a stud at center for New England; maybe Jake Andrews has that ahead for himself.

## NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

**B**

**1 (29) Bryan Bresee, DT, Clemson**
A high-school standout who made the quick adjustment to the ACC and, despite injuries, has had a solid career with room to grow ... He comes off a torn ACL, so New Orleans might need some patience ... Fundamentally sound, with good vision and versatility ... Strong, can win one-on-one battles in pass rush; has to improve in the run game.

**2 (40) Isaiah Foskey, DE, Notre Dame**
A bit limited in his repertoire, but with upside ... Good footwork and mobility ... Length is a plus and he uses it nicely ... Not as strong as he needs to be; could be blocked by one opponent in college ... Must improve hand usage ... Exceptional special teamer who can block kicks and punts.

**3 (71) Kendre Miller, RB, Texas Christian**
Injuries have been worrisome, but when in the lineup Miller is dangerous ... Good size, recognition of where the holes are, and has the mobility to get through them ... Hard to bring down when he gets moving ... Still, he's not fast and sometimes rushes through plays when patience would help.

**4 (103) Nick Saldiveri, T/G, Old Dominion**
No, this is not just a hoops school anymore ... Saldiveri is inconsistent from series to series, let alone game to game. Yet, he has the savvy and athletic skills to play the right side well ... Good fundamentals ... His main problems come when confronting bigger opponents, when he gets overpowered.

**4 (127) Jake Haener, QB, Fresno State**
An underrated school when it comes to this position ... Coming off a superb junior season, Haener returned to the Bulldogs and was all-conference despite missing four games (ankle) ... Good leader who understands the game inside and out, in part because he knows where the defense has vulnerability ... Savvy in the pocket ... Doesn't always put the ball in the best spot for a WR ... Doesn't have a rocket arm.

**5 (146) Jordan Howden, S, Minnesota**
Very experienced and active player ... Reads offenses well ... Does his best work against the run, but doesn't have the speed to compete with road-runner WRs ... Needs to be more physical.

JALEN CARTER
Photo by AP Photo/Matt Slocum

**6 (195) A.T. Perry, WR, Wake Forest**
At 6-3, 200, has nice size ... Focal point of a good offense at Wake, uses his length well ... Can win at the line of scrimmage to get into routes quickly ... Also finds ways to get open deep ... Can be elusive with the ball if he catches it; too many drops ... Adjustment to the ball needs some work.

**Good Move:** The Saints needed help on the aging defensive line and this draft will, well, help.
**Tell My Why:** Saldiveri wasn't rated so highly by many observers and probably was a reach in fourth round.
**Could Surprise:** Perry has the tools to be effective in the pros and perhaps could learn from Michael Thomas.

## NEW YORK GIANTS

**B+**

**1 (24) Deonte Banks, CB, Maryland**
Banks comes off his best college season ... Instinctive player who leaps well at 6-2 and can handle taller targets ... Likes to play the run and tackles well when he gets to the ball. But he can be blocked by one opponent too easily ... Could start for Giants in 2023.

**2 (57) John Michael Schmitz, C, Minnesota**
Fifth-year senior who made All-America in 2022 ... The top center in the draft ... Strong, smart, resilient ... Does his best work in the run game, firing out with flair and power ... Also can handle protection, but must show he can adapt to pro-style attack ... Has a mean streak while engaging defenders.

**3 (73) Jalin Hyatt, WR, Tennessee**
Some scouts saw him as a potential first-round pick ... Played all three seasons for Vols, was an All-American in '22 ... Very productive; finds the end zone ... A deep threat on every snap ... Hands sometimes are an issue, though ... Can help as a runner in the Deebo Samuel manner ... Not particularly physical.

**5 (172) Eric Gray, RB, Oklahoma**
A star for two seasons at Tennessee, Gray switched to the Sooners but didn't hit the mark until 2022 at Oklahoma ... Versatile player who has excellent moves and mobility ... Not afraid to take on pass rushers in protection, either ... Catches the ball and can break big plays ... Often goes down on first hit ... Lots of upside.

**6 (209) Tre Hawkins III, CB, Old Dominion**
Excels in press, not so much in other coverages ... Gambles a bit; had the speed and size to overcome some mistakes. Still, he makes those mistakes at times ... Can be fooled by double moves and doesn't fit a zone D ... Not much against the run.

**7 (243) Jordon Riley, DT, Oregon**
Riley attended North Carolina for a season, went to JUCO in 2019, Nebraska the next year, when he was injured, and finally landed with the Ducks after a decent 2021 for the Cornhuskers ... Strictly an inside guy; most likely on the nose ... Don't expect him on the field in passing situations if he makes Giants.

**7 (254) Gervarrius Owens, S, Houston**
Four-year starter, but the Cougars' defense rarely was top level ... Team leader ... Former cornerback who doesn't seem instinctive anywhere in secondary ... Mediocre hands ... Will run through people in the box ... Special teams might be his best ticket.

**Good Move:** Schmitz has a chance to start on Day 1 and become a Meadowlands fixture.
**Tell My Why:** Hyatt and his breakout speed dropping so low makes little sense. What are we missing?
**Could Surprise:** Hyatt joins a team in desperate need of his skills and could have early impact.

## NEW YORK JETS

**B**

**1 (15) Will McDonald IV, DE, Iowa State**
One of the biggest risers on draft boards in the buildup to selections ... A sack machine in college who explodes off the snap ... Fundamentally sound, particularly with hands and long arms ... Has several moves that could work in the NFL ... Might need to get bigger and add some strength ... High ceiling for McDonald.

**2 (43) Joe Tippmann, C, Wisconsin**
Yet another excellent prospect from the Big Ten at center ... Strong and smart and good mobility ... Could also work out at guard for New York ... Very solid pass protector and, at 6-6, 315, has the body type for road grading ... A leader, too ... Main thing to fix is handling speed guys.

**4 (120) Carter Warren, T, Pittsburgh**
Up-and-down career for Panthers makes him a project ... Strong and uses his hands well, particularly in protection. But also can be beaten by stunts and swim moves ... Gets to the second level and makes a hit ... Fundamentals are lacking, not nearly as powerful as he could be.

**5 (143) Israel Abanikanda, RB, Pittsburgh**
Izzy is a former track star with versatility in the run game ... Can be a workhorse ... Good footwork that allows him to make cuts at the right time, though he's not likely to make more than one on a play ... Never backs off ... Must show more as a receiver and pass protector.

**6 (184) Zaire Barnes, LB, Western Michigan**
Comes off one of the best seasons of any defender in the MAC ... Active, forces turnovers and finishes his hits ... Good size, too ... Doesn't slide sideline to sideline adeptly ... Has some technique problems that can be coached.

**6 (204) Jarrick Bernard-Converse, CB/S, Louisiana St.**
Former standout at Oklahoma State who spent final season in Baton Rouge ... Good instincts in coverage ... Size is a plus and so is his experience ... Has some strength in coverage to reroute receivers ... Can get lost at times in the pass game ... A bit inconsistent, but a solid prospect for this round.

**7 (220) Zack Kuntz, TE, Old Dominion**
Formerly at Penn State, where he did very little until 2020. Then he transferred to ODU and didn't do a lot either ... Tall target at 6-8, but kind of lumbering in his routes ... Not much in blocking game ... A project.

**Good Move:** After missing out on the offensive lineman they coveted, the Jets scrambled well in taking McDonald.
**Tell My Why:** Why couldn't they move up for the stud blocker they sought?
**Could Surprise:** Bernard-Converse has enough natural skill and instincts to make an impact. So does Barnes.

## PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

**A**

**1 (9) Jalen Carter, DT, Georgia**
Red flags everywhere ... Might have been the top selection overall had Carolina not traded to the top to get a QB ... Then again, with Carter's involvement in the road racing death of two people, NFL executives had to pause in considering him ... Hard to argue that he wasn't the best defender on the national championship roster, possibly in both 2021 and 2022 ... Strong, powerful, relentless ... Has had some injuries slow him, but not by much ... Philly has the leadership to keep him on the straight and narrow.

**1 (30) Nolan Smith, EDGE, Georgia**
Comes off pectoral injury that ended his 2022 ... A key to Georgia's championship-level defense, Smith excels at stripping the ball ... Loves to play the run, though he's not necessarily built that way ... Aggressive and fundamentally sound ... Needs more moves as a pass rusher ... Probably should bulk up for the pros.

**3 (65) Tyler Steen, OT, Alabama**
Transfer from Vanderbilt — how many such players does Alabama court? Few! ... Former DT ... Nice burst off the snap, uses his feet well in many situations ... Good hands, too ... Defenders can get under him to reach ball ... Seems to get too eager for engagement at times.

**3 (66) Sydney Brown, S, Illinois**
Canadian player and former track standout ... Has had some injury issues ... Twin brother Chase was a stud at Illinois; Sydney is solid prospect ... Will run through a wall to make a play ... Excellent hands and reads offenses well ... Still, he is better in zone coverage with good leverage.

**4 (105) Kelee Ringo, CB, Georgia**
At 6-2, 205, has the size teams want, but needs to be more physical ... Solid defender on two-time national champs who can get lax at times ... Has the look of a shutdown cornerback and can be one against certain routes. But also can be too grabby in coverage ... Quick feet and smooth.

**6 (188) Tanner McKee, QB, Stanford**
A guy to root for: McKee is a cancer survivor ... Goes 6-6, 230 ... Strong arm, even though his throwing motion is anything but classic ... A pocket passer who can get the ball deep ... Not much escapability; he lumbers when pursued ... Unless he finds more mobility, McKee is a sack waiting to happen. He received little protection in school.

**7 (249) Moro Ojomo, DT, Texas**
Not much of a season for the Longhorns by their supposed standards, though Ojomo was a stud much of the time ... Will win with his hands ... Great motor and dedication on each play, but might need to work on his endurance ... Probably can handle end in some situations for Eagles.

**Good Move:** How about a grand slam? Give GM Howie Roseman the Executive of the Year award now.
**Tell My Why:** The Eagles don't rename their defense to the Dawgs with all the Georgia guys.
**Could Surprise:** Brown fits nicely on the Dawgs, uh, Eagles defensive unit.

## PITTSBURGH STEELERS

**B+**

**1 (14) Broderick Jones, T, Georgia**
If he played for Georgia, he has to be a top prospect, right? ... Attendees at Combine bragged about his body type ... He should move into starting lineup quickly for Pittsburgh .... Few tackles in this class are as adept at run blocking as Jones, and he is no slouch in protection.

**2 (32) Joey Porter Jr., CB, Penn State**
Son of former NFL starter Joey Porter who excels in press coverage ... All-Big Ten player last season and top defender for Nittany Lions ... Strong at the line; can disrupt pass patterns ... Good closing speed ... Tall at 6-2, uses it well, big enough to cover all sorts of wideouts and even tight ends ... Can be too hands-on with receivers and didn't make picks for Penn State.

**2 (49) Keeanu Benton, DT, Wisconsin**
Moderately productive until his final Badgers season, when he became a factor in opposing backfields ... Pretty mobile, can make plays inside and outside ... Impressed at Senior Bowl ... Powerful hands lead to good bull rushes and power moves ... Not particularly solid on fundamentals; can get sloppy ... Inconsistent, but worth this spot.

**3 (93) Darnell Washington, TE, Georgia**
Massive target at nearly 6-7, 265 ... Far more blocking duties for Bulldogs, naturally, but has shown receiving skills to make him enticing for NFL ... Former basketball player who uses those abilities to box out defenders ... Washington will help Steelers immediately in run game ... Not a deep threat; should be dangerous in red zone.

**4 (132) Nick Herbig, LB, Wisconsin**
The Badgers often have topnotch OLBs who don't always adjust well to the NFL ... Great motor ... A playmaker all over the field in college, particularly in the backfield ... Mobile and tough, but not all that strong ... Might not have the strength to fight off bigger blockers one-on-one ... Could do well on kick teams.

**7 (241) Cory Trice, CB, Purdue**
Former safety who could wind up back there for Steelers. Lack of speed and quickness could force that move ... Excellent size and length ... Uses his physical skills well and consistently ... Not handsy; stays away from penalties ... Definitely can fit on special teams.

**7 (251) Spencer Anderson, G, Maryland**
Anderson's best season was 2021 when he played at both right tackle and center ... He regressed a bit last season, particularly getting beaten to the outside ... Far more advanced as run blocker ... Has a mean streak ... A reach for Pittsburgh.

**Good Move:** Trading up for Jones at a position they desperately need help was wise. So was getting Porter to start the second round.
**Tell My Why:** OK, explain to us how the Steelers never have a losing season under Mike Tomlin. Maybe because he's headed for the Hall of Fame?
**Could Surprise:** Pittsburgh's special teams, which get a boost with Herbig and Trice.

## SAN FRANCISCO 49ers

**B**

**3 (87) Ji'Ayir Brown, S, Penn State**
Nittany Lions have produced many solid safeties through the years. Brown can be another ... Former Division II All-American at Lackawanna ... Breaks well on the ball and catches it ... His outstanding Rose Bowl helped his stock ... Can play anywhere except outside cornerback ... Great motor that makes up for lack of outright speed.

**3 (99) Jake Moody, K, Michigan**
As clutch a kicker as the college game had ... Michigan built some offensive schemes around his reliability ... Strong leg, reliable, unflappable ... Won some huge games for Wolverines and could do so for Niners, too.

**3 (101) Cameron Latu, TE, Alabama**
Smart player used in several roles by Tide ... Steady blocker; not a game-breaking receiver ... Should be helpful on special teams ... Gets off the line well and has enough power to stay upright when hit ... Won't get open deep.

**5 (155) Darrell Luter Jr., CB, South Alabama**
Sometimes jumps out on film with his ball-hawking and movement ... Very good hands for a DB ... Big-time jumper ... Not much versus the run ... Must show he can cover bigger receivers.

**5 (173) Robert Beal, DE, Georgia**
A backup for most of his career, though a contributor the last two seasons ... The measurables are of interest, particularly his length ... A good athlete who will help on kick teams ... Must improve run recognition and defending ... A project — but he did help Georgia in its two national title seasons.

**6 (216) Dee Winters, LB, Texas Christian**
Extremely active all-conference player ... Finds ways to the ball or the passer, had 7.5 sacks in 2022 ... Fits both inside and outside for 49ers depending on his weight .... Finishes tackles with a boom ... Solid against the run; not so dependable in coverage ... Can be blocked by one defender, but when he gets free, he ends plays.

**7 (247) Brayden Willis, TE, Oklahoma**
Willis made steady progress for the Sooners, but he never was a star ... He catches the ball nicely and can make the tough reception, too ... Not afraid to go into a crowd to make a catch ... Not a blocker yet ... Willis will need time to show his stuff for Niners.

**7 (253) Ronnie Bell, WR, Michigan**
After torn ACL in 2021, Bell made a strong recovery and was helpful in the Wolverines' Big Ten title campaign ... Also can return punts, though he was better at it before the knee problem ... Never backs down; team leader ... Good hands and runs smart routes ... Not a deep threat.

**7 (255) Jalen Graham, LB, Purdue**
Spirited player who hits hard when he makes contact ... Doesn't get intimidated ... More astute on plays in front of him ... Special teams are a likely destination ... Might need to get bigger.

**Good Move:** Considering how deep into the draft the Niners made their first selection, Brown was a gift.
**Tell My Why:** With better health in the playoffs, we can't see why the Niners won't go deep.
**Could Surprise:** Moody might seem like a luxury selection at No. 99, but this is a superb and clutch kicker.

## SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

**A**

**1 (5) Devon Witherspoon, CB, Illinois**
Many scouts ranked him as the top DB in this crop ... All-American and Big Ten's defensive back honoree ... Always around the ball and makes plays ... Hits hard and is an asset against the run ...

Solid fundamentals ... Gets his hands on receivers a bit too often ... Should start opposite Tariq Woolen.

### 1 (20) Jaxon Smith-Njigba, WR, Ohio State

Yet another stud receiver from the Buckeyes after Garrett Wilson and Chris Olave were outstanding as rookies in NFL ... Injuries have been an issue, including hamstring that hamstrung the 2022 season ... Can be a terrific possession target in the pros; will pick up first down after first down ... Wins on many contested balls ... Not a real deep threat because he lacks breakaway speed.

### 2 (37) Derick Hall, DE, Auburn

A force at getting into the backfield for the underachieving Tigers last season ... Team leader; making All-SEC with the impressive competition was a big step for Hall ... Great burst and never backs down ... Makes plays inside and outside ... Needs to upgrade his tackling technique and add some moves on his rushes in the pros.

### 2 (52) Zach Charbonnet, RB, UCLA

Began college career at Michigan, but left after sophomore season for West Coast ... Made a bigger impact for UCLA and was all-conference last year ... Versatile, will help Seattle in passing game as well as toting the ball ... Solid build he uses well in traffic ... Doesn't fumble ... Not particularly fast, but uses what he has well.

### 4 (108) Anthony Bradford, G, Louisiana State

Goes 6-4, 330 ... Has had some injury issues and a one-game suspension ... Saw some time at tackle in Baton Rouge, but certainly projects as a pro guard ... Not bad when he pulls despite his size ... A road grader in the run game with a nasty streak ... Not consistent in pass protection ... Probably will get benefit of doubt to make roster because of his measurables.

### 4 (123) Cameron Young, DT, Mississippi State

Kind of one-dimensional, a force against the run, but not much to offer in passing game ... Not quick after a good burst off the snap ... Hits hard when he finds the ball-carrier ... Offers limited skills for Seahawks; won't do a lot outside of a small box.

### 5 (151) Mike Morris, DE, Michigan

The focal point of the two-time Big Ten champion's D-line ... Won the conference's top honors at the position in '22 ... Could play inside with regularity, too ... Has several moves, but must upgrade hand usage ... Rugged NFL Combine didn't help his stock, but the films show, when healthy, he is a winner.

### 5 (154) Olusegun Oluwatimi, C, Michigan

Yep, a Big Ten center who was a top prospect. Seems every conference school has one ... Former Virginia lineman who went to Wolverines last season and fit nicely on the conference's best O-line ... Anchors well and has good feet for pass protection ... Powerful but mobile enough ... Gets off balance at times, can get pushed aside when he does.

### 6 (198) Jerrick Reed II, S, New Mexico

Instinctive player with natural defending skills ... Recognizes how to divert receivers ... Experienced and a leader ... Can overrun plays ... Also now very strong, won't do a lot against the run just yet.

### 7 (237) Kenny McIntosh, RB, Georgia

Didn't become the No. 1 RB for the Bulldogs until his final season ... Still, he contributed to two national titles ... Showed promise as a receiving threat in 2022 with good hands ... Comes hard with the ball in his hands; can knock over defenders ... Not much as a pass protection blocker.

**Good Move:** So many. Start with the best cornerback and highest-rated wide receiver in this crop.

**Tell My Why:** Few other teams can't work the draft as well as the Seahawks do.

**Could Surprise:** Morris might not look great in workouts, but when the games start, he is a stud.

## TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

**B+**

### 1 (19) Calijah Kancey, DT, Pittsburgh

Barely goes 6-foot and that could be a worry in the NFL ... Then again, this guy at 282 pounds is a powerhouse with agility and a go-get-it motor ... Look for Tampa to see if he can play end in some situations ... This was a deep position in the draft and he went 19th, second among DTs after Jalen Carter, which says a lot.

# NFL DRAFT

### 2 (48) Cody Mauch, T/G, North Dakota State

NFL teams no longer consider this school on a lower level, and scouts flock to its Pro Day ... Former tight end who built himself into an FCS All-American ... Smart and versatile, can handle D-linemen and then go after LBs ... Look for him to move right into the lineup here.

### 3 (82) YaYa Diaby, EDGE, Louisville

Former JUCO standout who spent last three seasons for Cardinals ... Nice burst into the backfield; knows where he needs to get and gets there ... Needs to improve his assortment of moves in the pass rush ... Uses his hands well ... Has some technique issues.

### 5 (153) SirVocea Dennis, LB, Pittsburgh

All-conference player who improved throughout his college career ... Instinctive and intelligent, which helps him overcome lack of speed ... Understands not only his duties, but everyone on the defense's responsibilities ... Solid fundamentals when tackling ... Could be an immediate help on special teams for Bucs.

### 5 (171) Payne Durham, TE, Purdue

Durham's progress through his years for Boilermakers was impressive. He became a top Big 10 tight end in 2022 ... Runs good routes and shows flashes of getting deep ... Smart, clutch performer ... Not technically sound as receiver, but he's managed ... Can block, but that's not his strength.

### 6 (181) Josh Hayes, CB, Kansas State

Transfer from North Dakota State last season ... Active tackler who isn't afraid to mix it up ... Fast and mobile ... Cover skills are questionable and he's a bit raw ... Should fit on kick teams.

### 6 (191) Trey Palmer, WR, Nebraska

Former track star who didn't do much at LSU and transferred to Nebraska ... Set school record of 1,403 yards on 71 catches and showed skill as kick returner ... Will win jump balls for passes ... Routes need lots of work, but the athleticism is apparent ... Hands a big question.

### 6 (196) Jose Ramirez, EDGE, Eastern Michigan

Former JUCO player who wound up at Eastern Michigan though bigger football schools showed interest ... MAC's top defensive player in 2022, with excellent numbers, including 12 sacks ... Mobile, persistent and smart, which helped him be a force weekly at EMU ... Showed little against the run at times, as if disinterested.

**Good Move:** Each of the top four selections should be contributing from Day 1.

**Tell My Why:** No running back, a position of need, was chosen. Bucs must be sold on Rachaad White.

**Could Surprise:** Hayes, with patience, could develop into more than a special-teamer.

## TENNESSEE TITANS

**B**

### 1 (11) Pete Skoronski, T/G, Northwestern

Very experienced blocker who most scouts saw as best prepared lineman in this crop, but more likely inside ... Played well as a freshman and, despite some struggles by the Wildcats, Skoronski improved throughout his career ... Great feet, anchors well and has the movement to handle most pass-rush attempts ... Not particularly strong and must show he can fire out consistently in run game.

### 2 (33) Will Levis, QB, Kentucky

Formerly at Penn State, he blossomed at Kentucky ... Very good size (6-3, 229) ... Super quick on his release and had mobility to keep plays alive ... Doesn't always reads defenses well ... Takes some gambles, had 25 picks to go with his 46 TD passes ... Could improve ball placement ... Not on the level of Bryce Young or C.J. Stroud; slipped to second round before Titans traded up for him.

### 3 (81) Tyjae Spears, RB, Tulane

The Cotton Bowl MVP for the surprising Green Wave and the AAC's top offensive player in 2022 ... Spears did it despite having no ACL in his right knee after previous injury ... Dependable, lets his blockers do their work and then finishes ... Very tough to bring down in the open field ... Needs to show more as a receiver ... Won't overpower anyone.

### 5 (147) Josh Whyle, TE, Cincinnati

The next Travis Kelce from the Bearcats? Not likely ... More of a body-catcher than technically sound with his hands and arms ... Improved throughout his five seasons in Cincy ... Nice moves for the position ... Tends to wander in his routes.

### 6 (186) Jaelyn Duncan, T/G, Maryland

Four-year starter for Terps ... Handles defenders well in the run game with his size and strength, but is not real mobile ... Drew too many penalties because of poor hand placement ... Might be better suited at guard.

### 7 (228) Colton Dowell, WR, Tennessee-Martin

Has had some injury problems, but Dowell produced when on the field — on a lower level, of course ... Good size, hands ... Doesn't get intimidated ... Must improve his maneuverability and collection of routes.

**Good Move:** Grabbing Levis at 33 was a no-brainer for a team uncertain about its quarterbacking.

**Tell My Why:** Was the Titans' fade last year an anomaly or is a rebuild in order?

**Could Surprise:** Spears, as a spot back behind Derrick Henry, might contribute early.

## WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

**B**

### 1 (16) Emmanuel Forbes, CB, Mississippi State

Needs to add some bulk to be effective tackler in pros ... Ran a 4.35 40 ... Excellent freshman season in which he scored three times ... Made six picks last season, though he sometimes gambles ... Still, he holds NCAA record for pick-6s with six ... Reads what offenses are trying to do well ... Not vulnerable deep, but can be beaten on double moves and his backpedal is mediocre.

### 2 (47) Quan Martin, S, Illinois

Also has played cornerback; projects as deep safety in pros ... But Washington could use him in slot, where he should fit ... Mobile, fast and bursts into plays ... Had very good Combine ... Reads plays well ... Could struggle against bigger receivers and tight ends.

### 3 (97) Rick Stromberg, C, Arkansas

Very experienced center with a can-do attitude ... Doesn't get intimidated ... Does his best work in the running attack, gets off the snap and knocks over defenders ... Not as dependable in pass protection; needs better footwork moving back.

### 4 (118) Braeden Daniels, G/T, Utah

Five-year player who mostly played tackle for Utes. Fits most as a guard ... Foundation is solid; makes few mistakes ... Smart player who understands blocking schemes ... Gets to the second level, too ... Not as strong as he might need to be, especially if he settles inside ... Must show he can pull.

### 5 (137) K.J. Henry, DE, Clemson

Terrific athlete; popular teammate and captain for Tigers ... Gets off the snap well; has some solid moves to get into the backfield ... Blocks throws ... A bit awkward at times; his balance is questionable ... Must improve his hand usage.

### 6 (193) Chris Rodriguez Jr., RB, Kentucky

Strong, hard runner ... Should have a future on short-yardage downs and in red zone ... Might be the best protector in the passing game in this crop ... Can carry tacklers for yardage ... Lack of speed will limit what he's asked to do ... Some off-field issues including driving while intoxicated clouded his draft status. He missed four games in 2022.

### 7 (233) Andre Jones Jr., DE, Louisiana

Long, athletic and smart player ... Moves well and switches directions on a dime ... Has some power to his game, but it's not consistent ... Can get lost on the field on some plays, but then makes a big play right after ... Special teams are calling him.

**Good Move:** Washington's secondary should be vastly improved with Forbes and Martin.

**Tell My Why:** No quarterback was taken by a team with major questions at the key position.

**Could Surprise:** Maybe Rodriguez if he behaves because the talent is there.

# HOMELESS PLAYERS

THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS THAT ENDED 2022 ON AN NFL TEAM WERE NOT ON A ROSTER AS OF PRESS TIME:

| NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | GAMES | ENTRY | LAST TEAM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | |
| Bridgewater, Teddy | 6-2 | 215 | 10 | 5/2/7/5 | D1 MINN 14 | Dolphins |
| Daniel, Chase | 6-0 | 229 | 14 | 4/0/13/0 | CFA WSH 09 | Chargers |
| Flacco, Joe | 6-6 | 245 | 16 | 5/4/9/3 | D1 BLT 08 | Jets |
| Foles, Nick | 6-6 | 243 | 12 | 3/2/8/6 | D3 PHA 12 | Colts |
| Rudolph, Mason | 6-5 | 235 | 6 | 0/0/1/16 | D3 PITT 18 | Steelers |
| Ryan, Matt | 6-4 | 217 | 16 | 12/12/1/4 | D1 ATL 08 | Colts |
| Wentz, Carson | 6-5 | 237 | 8 | 8/7/1/1 | D1 PHA 16 | Commanders |
| Wolford, John | 6-1 | 200 | 4 | 3/3/8/6 | CFA NYJ 18 | Rams |
| **WIDE RECEIVERS** | | | | | | |
| Beasley, Cole | 5-8 | 174 | 11 | 2/1/0/0 | CFA DALL 12 | Bills |
| Golladay, Kenny | 6-4 | 213 | 7 | 12/4/0/5 | D3 DET 17 | Giants |
| Jones, Julio | 6-3 | 220 | 13 | 10/5/0/7 | D1 ATL 11 | Buccaneers |
| *Landry, Jarvis | 5-11 | 202 | 10 | 9/3/0/5 | D2 MIA 14 | Saints |
| Harry, N'Keal | 6-4 | 225 | 5 | 7/0/0/5 | D1 NE 19 | Bears |
| Perriman, Breshad | 6-2 | 215 | 9 | 11/3/0/6 | D1 BLT 15 | Buccaneers |
| Pringle, Byron | 6-1 | 201 | 6 | 11/4/0/0 | CFA KC 18 | Bears |
| Roberts, Andre (RS) | 5-11 | 195 | 14 | 3/0/0/0 | D3 ARIZ 10 | Panthers |
| Robinson, Demarcus | 6-1 | 203 | 8 | 17/5 | D4 KC 16 | Ravens |
| Watkins, Sammy | 6-1 | 211 | 10 | 12/5/0/0 | D1 BUFF 14 | Ravens |
| **TIGHT ENDS** | | | | | | |
| Brate, Cameron | 6-5 | 245 | 9 | 11/1/0/6 | CFA TB 14 | Buccaneers |
| Kroft, Tyler | 6-5 | 246 | 9 | 11/4/0/6 | D3 CIN 15 | Falcons |
| Lewis, Marcedes | 6-6 | 267 | 18 | 17/17 | D1 JAX 06 | Packers |
| Moreau, Foster | 6-4 | 250 | 5 | 15/14/0/2 | D4 OAK 19 | Raiders |
| Pruitt, MyCole | 6-2 | 245 | 8 | 13/4/0/0 | D5 MINN 15 | 49ers |
| Rudolph, Kyle | 6-6 | 265 | 13 | 9/0/1/7 | D2 MINN 11 | Buccaneers |
| Swaim, Geoff | 6-4 | 260 | 9 | 17/13 | D7 DALL 15 | Titans |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | |
| Brown, Malcolm | 5-11 | 222 | 8 | 10/0/0/0 | CFA STL 15 | Rams |
| Burkhead, Rex | 5-10 | 215 | 11 | 16/0/0/1 | D6 CIN 13 | Texans |
| Drake, Kenyan | 6-1 | 217 | 8 | 12/5/0/5 | D3 MIA 16 | Ravens |
| Elliott, Ezekiel | 6-0 | 226 | 8 | 15/14/0/2 | D1 DALL 16 | Cowboys |
| Fournette, Leonard | 6-0 | 228 | 7 | 16/9/0/1 | D1 JAX 16 | Buccaneers |
| Freeman, Royce | 6-0 | 238 | 5 | 4/1/0/0 | D3 DEN 18 | Texans |
| Hunt, Kareem | 5-11 | 216 | 7 | 17/0 | D3 KC 17 | Browns |
| *Ingram II, Mark | 5-9 | 215 | 13 | 10/3/0/3 | D1 NO 11 | Saints |
| Johnson, David | 6-1 | 224 | 8 | 5/0/0/0 | D3 ARIZ 15 | Saints |
| *McKissic, J.D. | 5-10 | 195 | 7 | 8/0/0/2 | CFA ATL 16 | Commanders |
| Snell Jr., Benny | 5-10 | 224 | 5 | 17/0 | D4 PITT 19 | Steelers |
| Watt, Derek (FB) | 6-2 | 234 | 8 | 17/3 | D6 SD 16 | Steelers |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | |
| Aboushi, Oday (G) | 6-5 | 308 | 11 | 15/4/0/0 | D5 NYJ 13 | Rams |
| *Britt, Justin (C) | 6-6 | 315 | 8 | 1/1/0/1 | D2 SEA 14 | Texans |
| Cann, A.J. (G) | 6-3 | 320 | 9 | 16/1/0/1 | D3 JAX 15 | Texans |
| *Cannon, Marcus (T) | 6-6 | 335 | 12 | 5/4/0/0 | D5 NE 11 | Patriots |
| Davis, Jesse (G/T) | 6-6 | 309 | 7 | 14/0/3/0 | CFA SEA 15 | Steelers |
| *Elflein, Pat (G/C) | 6-3 | 305 | 7 | 6/6/0/0 | D3 MINN 17 | Panthers |
| Erving, Cam (T) | 6-5 | 315 | 9 | 11/0/6/0 | D1 CLV 15 | Panthers |
| *Fant, George (T) | 6-5 | 322 | 8 | 8/7/0/0 | CFA SEA 16 | Jets |
| Fleming, Cam (T) | 6-6 | 325 | 10 | 15/15/0/2 | D4 NE 14 | Broncos |
| Hart, Bobby (T) | 6-5 | 310 | 9 | 15/0/0/0 | D7 NYG 15 | Bills |
| Jackson, Gabe (G) | 6-3 | 335 | 10 | 15/15/0/2 | D3 OAK 14 | Seahawks |
| *Jones, Ben (C) | 6-3 | 308 | 12 | 12/12/0/2 | D4 HOUS 12 | Titans |
| Jordan, Michael (G) | 6-6 | 315 | 5 | 17/0 | D4 CIN 19 | Panthers |
| Kelly, Dennis (T) | 6-8 | 321 | 11 | 16/3/1/0 | D5 PHA 12 | Colts |
| Martin, Nick (C) | 6-4 | 299 | 8 | 4/2/11/0 | D2 HOUS 16 | Commanders |
| Peters, Jason (T/G) | 6-4 | 328 | 18 | 12/1/2/1 | CFA BUFF 04 | Cowboys |
| Remmers, Mike (T) | 6-5 | 303 | 11 | 8/1/3/1 | CFA DEN 12 | Jets |
| *Risner, Dalton (G) | 6-5 | 312 | 5 | 15/15/0/1 | D2 DEN 19 | Broncos |
| *Roullier, Chase (C) | 6-4 | 312 | 7 | 2/2/0/0 | D6 WSH 17 | Commanders |
| Saffold III, Rodger (G) | 6-5 | 325 | 14 | 16/16 | D2 STL 10 | Bills |
| *Schofield III, Michael (G/T) | 6-6 | 301 | 10 | 11/5/3/1 | D3 DEN 14 | Bears |
| Shell, Brandon (T) | 6-5 | 324 | 8 | 13/11/0/0 | D5 NYJ 16 | Dolphins |
| Skipper, Dan (T/G) | 6-9 | 330 | 3 | 16/5/0/0 | CFA DALL 17 | Lions |
| Skura, Matt (C) | 6-3 | 305 | 7 | 9/8/4/0 | CFA BLT 16 | Rams |
| Turner, Trai (G) | 6-3 | 320 | 9 | 16/12/0/1 | D3 CARO 14 | Commanders |
| Van Roten, Greg (G) | 6-4 | 295 | 8 | 16/4 | CFA GB 12 | Bills |
| *Wynn, Isaiah (T) | 6-2 | 310 | 6 | 9/7/0/4 | D1 NE 16 | Patriots |

| NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | GAMES | ENTRY | LAST TEAM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | |
| Alualu, Tyson (NT) | 6-3 | 304 | 14 | 17/2 | D1 JAX 10 | Steelers |
| Brockers, Michael (E) | 6-5 | 297 | 12 | 6/5/0/11 | D1 STL 12 | Lions |
| Clark, Frank (E) | 6-3 | 261 | 8 | 15/15/0/0 | D2 SEA 15 | Chiefs |
| Clowney, Jadeveon (E) | 6-5 | 255 | 10 | 12/10/0/5 | D1 HOUS | Browns |
| *Covington, Christian (E) | 6-2 | 300 | 9 | 4/0/0/4 | D6 HOUS 15 | Chargers |
| Curry, Vinny (E) | 6-3 | 279 | 11 | 11/0/0/1 | D2 PHA 12 | Jets |
| Dunlap II, Carlos (E) | 6-6 | 277 | 14 | 17/2 | D2 CIN 10 | Chiefs |
| Edwards Jr., Mario (T) | 6-3 | 280 | 9 | 13/7/0/1 | D2 OAK 15 | Titans |
| Gholston, William (T) | 6-6 | 281 | 11 | 17/9 | D4 TB 13 | Buccaneers |
| Harris, Shelby (E) | 6-2 | 290 | 8 | 15/15/0/2 | D7 OAK 14 | Seahawks |
| Hicks, Akiem (T) | 6-4 | 335 | 12 | 11/11/0/6 | D3 NO 12 | Buccaneers |
| Ioannidis, Matt (T) | 6-3 | 310 | 8 | 13/13/0/4 | D5 WSH 16 | Panthers |
| Joseph, Linval (NT) | 6-4 | 328 | 14 | 8/8/0/0 | D2 NYG 10 | Eagles |
| Muhammad, Al-Quadin (E) | 6-4 | 250 | 7 | 16/9/0/1 | D6 NORL 17 | Bears |
| Nassib, Carl (E) | 6-5 | 275 | 8 | 13/1/0/4 | D3 CLV 16 | Buccaneers |
| *Ngakoue, Yannick (E) | 6-2 | 246 | 8 | 15/15/0/0 | D3 JAX 16 | Colts |
| Pennel Jr., Mike (T) | 6-4 | 332 | 10 | 17/2 | CFA GB 14 | Bears |
| Quinn, Robert (E) | 6-4 | 264 | 13 | 13/7/0/1 | D1 STL 11 | Eagles |
| *Smoot, Dawuane (T) | 6-3 | 275 | 7 | 16/0/0/0 | D3 JAX 17 | Jaguars |
| Suh, Ndamukong (T) | 6-4 | 307 | 14 | 8/0/0/0 | D1 DET 10 | Eagles |
| *Wormley, Chris (E) | 6-5 | 300 | 7 | 13/1/0/0 | D3 BLT 17 | Steelers |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | |
| Alexander, Kwon (O) | 6-1 | 227 | 9 | 17/12 | D4 TB 15 | Jets |
| Barr, Anthony (O) | 6-5 | 255 | 10 | 14/10/0/3 | D1 MINN 14 | Cowboys |
| *Cunningham, Zach (I) | 6-3 | 238 | 7 | 6/6/0/3 | D2 HOUS 17 | Titans |
| Evans, Rashaan (I) | 6-2 | 232 | 6 | 17/17 | D1 TENN 18 | Falcons |
| Floyd, Leonard (O) | 6-5 | 240 | 8 | 17/17 | D1 CHI 16 | Rams |
| Golden, Markus (O) | 6-3 | 260 | 9 | 17/14 | D2 ARIZ 15 | Cardinals |
| Houston, Justin (O) | 6-3 | 270 | 13 | 14/1/0/3 | D3 KC 11 | Ravens |
| Ingram III, Melvin (O/DE) | 6-2 | 247 | 11 | 17/3 | D1 SD 12 | Dolphins |
| Jack, Myles (I) | 6-1 | 255 | 8 | 15/13/1/1 | D2 JAX 16 | Steelers |
| Irvin, Bruce (O) | 6-3 | 258 | 12 | 11/9/0/0 | D1 SEA 12 | Seahawks |
| Jones, Jamir (O) | 6-3 | 255 | 3 | 17/0 | CFA HOUS 20 | Steelers |
| Jones, Deion (M) | 6-1 | 222 | 8 | 11/5/0/0 | D2 ATL 16 | Browns |
| Kwiatkoski, Nick (I) | 6-2 | 242 | 8 | 12/0/0/5 | D4 CHI 16 | Falcons |
| Pierre-Paul, Jason (O) | 6-5 | 270 | 14 | 14/13/0/0 | D1 NYG 10 | Ravens |
| Smith, Jaylon (I) | 6-2 | 240 | 7 | 13/11/1/0 | D2 DALL 16 | Giants |
| Thomas, Joe (O) | 6-1 | 233 | 8 | 15/9/0/0 | CFA GB 14 | Bears |
| Van Noy, Kyle (O) | 6-3 | 250 | 10 | 17/13 | D2 DET 14 | Chargers |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | |
| Adams, Andrew (S) | 5-11 | 205 | 8 | 13/11/0/1 | CFA NYG 16 | Titans |
| Amos Jr., Adrian (S) | 6-0 | 214 | 8 | 17/17 | D5 CHI 15 | Packers |
| Apple, Eli (CB) | 6-1 | 203 | 8 | 15/15/0/1 | D1 NYG 16 | Bengals |
| Burns, Artie (CB) | 6-0 | 187 | 8 | 3/0/1/13 | D1 PITT 16 | Seahawks |
| Burris, Juston (S) | 6-0 | 210 | 8 | 5/3/1/7 | D4 NYJ 16 | Seahawks |
| Carrie, T.J. (CB/S) | 6-0 | 208 | 10 | 7/0/0/0 | UFA,OAK 18 | Panthers |
| Chandler, Sean (S) | 5-10 | 200 | 6 | 17/0 | CFA NYG 18 | Panthers |
| *Darby, Ronald (CB) | 5-11 | 193 | 9 | 5/5/0/0 | D2 BUFF 15 | Broncos |
| Fejedelem, Clayton (S) | 6-1 | 205 | 8 | 13/0/0/0 | D7 CIN 16 | Dolphins |
| Flowers, Tre (CB) | 6-3 | 203 | 6 | 15/0/0/1 | D5 SEA 18 | Bengals |
| *Hayward Jr., Casey (CB) | 5-11 | 192 | 10 | 6/6/0/0 | D2 GB 12 | Falcons |
| Hill, Troy (CB) | 5-11 | 180 | 8 | 12/12/0/1 | CFA CIN 15 | Rams |
| Jackson, Kareem (S) | 5-10 | 183 | 14 | 17/17 | D1 HOUS 10 | Broncos |
| Johnson III, John (S) | 6-1 | 208 | 7 | 17/17 | D3 LAR 17 | Browns |
| Kalu, Joshua (CB) | 6-0 | 203 | 5 | 16/5/0/1 | CFA TENN 18 | Titans |
| Marlowe, Dean (S) | 6-1 | 208 | 7 | 12/2/1/4 | CFA CARO 15 | Bills |
| Moreau, Fabian (CB) | 6-0 | 198 | 7 | 15/12/0/1 | D3 WSH 17 | Giants |
| Owens, Jonathan (S) | 5-11 | 210 | 5 | 17/17 | CFA ARIZ 18 | Texans |
| Peters, Marcus (CB) | 6-0 | 197 | 9 | 13/13/0/4 | D1 KC 15 | Ravens |
| Sorensen, Daniel (S) | 6-2 | 208 | 10 | 17/2 | UFA,KC 22 | Saints |
| Williams, P.J. (CB) | 6-0 | 196 | 9 | 11/3/0/2 | D3 NORL 15 | Saints |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | |
| Bullock, Randy (K) | 5-9 | 210 | 12 | 15/0/0/2 | D5 HOUS 12 | Titans |
| Crosby, Mason (K) | 6-1 | 207 | 17 | 17/0 | D6 GB 07 | Packers |
| Gould, Robbie (K) | 6-0 | 190 | 19 | 17/0 | CFA NE 05 | 49ers |
| Haack, Matt (P) | 6-0 | 205 | 7 | 17/0 | CFA MIA 17 | Colts |
| Maher, Brett (K) | 6-0 | 190 | 5 | 17/0 | CFA NYJ 13 | Cowboys |
| Palardy, Michael (P) | 5-11 | 185 | 7 | 8/0/0/0 | CFA OAK 14 | Patriots |
| Succop, Ryan (K) | 6-2 | 218 | 15 | 17/0 | D7 KC 09 | Buccaneers |
| Tinker, Carson (LS) | 6-0 | 237 | 9 | 17/0 | CFA JAX 13 | Seahawks |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve

# THE NFL'S BEST:

## PLAYERS AND UNITS

Andy Reid enjoyed his February reunion when the Kansas City Chiefs beat the Philadelphia Eagles in The Super Bowl.

Reid has cached a plethora of accomplishments that neither franchise had enjoyed previous to his arrival.

As the 2023 season rises on the horizon, Eagles general manager Howie Roseman has a tender back from the endless number of slaps of praise he's received building the Eagles.

Chiefs general manager Brett Veach has navigated roster overhauls on the offensive line, linebacking unit, and most recently a secondary that provided the talent to maximize their crown jewel, Patrick Mahomes.

Ironically, both have a common denominator as a "personnel mentor": Andy Reid.

The Eagles rank in the top five in five of seven NFC positional rankings. The Chiefs have four different players ranked as the best at their respective positions in our 2023 player ratings: Mahomes, center Creed Humphrey, tight end Travis Kelce and defensive tackle Chris Jones.

Which teams have the individual players and/or position units capable of denying a rematch in the Super Bowl?

Fortunately for you, we offer a position-by-position and unit-by-unit glance to make that determination.

Keep in mind: The last NFC team to lose a Super Bowl and return the next season was the Minnesota Vikings in 1972-73.

Keep in mind: The last team to win the NFC East two consecutive seasons was the Eagles ... nearly 20 years ago.

Keep in mind: Since 1993, nearly 50 percent (13 of 28) Super Bowl losers failed to make the playoffs the next season. History isn't favoring the Eagles.

The Chiefs have the Los Angeles Chargers to compete with in the AFC West. Joe Burrow and the Cincinnati Bengals hope to have a third consecutive rematch in the AFC title game.

These ratings would indicate both teams are worthy opponents.

Where does Lamar Jackson rank among quarterbacks? Has Aaron Donald slipped? Which is the best team in the trenches or the best special-teams unit?

We offer our opinion ... and surely you'll concur, right?

## QUARTERBACKS

### AIR

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Patrick Mahomes | Kansas City | 6-3 | 227 |
| 2. Joe Burrow | Cincinnati | 6-4 | 221 |
| 3. Justin Herbert | L.A. Chargers | 6-6 | 236 |
| 4. Aaron Rodgers | N.Y. Jets | 6-2 | 225 |
| 5. Dak Prescott | Dallas | 6-2 | 228 |
| 6. Kirk Cousins | Minnesota | 6-3 | 205 |
| 7. Tua Tagovailoa | Miami | 6-0 | 217 |
| 8. Derek Carr | New Orleans | 6-3 | 210 |
| 9. Matthew Stafford | L.A. Rams | 6-3 | 220 |
| 10. Jared Goff | Detroit | 6-4 | 217 |

### AIR & GROUND

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Josh Allen | Buffalo | 6-5 | 237 |
| 2. Lamar Jackson | Baltimore | 6-2 | 212 |
| 3. Jalen Hurts | Philadelphia | 6-1 | 223 |
| 4. Trevor Lawrence | Jacksonville | 6-6 | 220 |
| 5. Deshaun Watson | Cleveland | 6-3 | 223 |
| 6. Russell Wilson | Denver | 5-11 | 215 |
| 7. Geno Smith | Seattle | 6-3 | 221 |
| 8. Daniel Jones | N.Y. Giants | 6-5 | 230 |
| 9. Justin Fields | Chicago | 6-3 | 228 |
| 10. Ryan Tannehill | Tennessee | 6-4 | 217 |

*Not rated due to Injury status: Kyler Murray, Arizona; Brock Purdy, San Francisco*

### THE TWOS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Cooper Rush | Dallas | 6-3 | 224 |
| 2. Jameis Winston | New Orleans | 6-4 | 231 |
| 3. Taylor Heinicke | Atlanta | 6-1 | 210 |
| 4. Andy Dalton | Carolina | 6-2 | 220 |
| 5. Mike White | Miami | 6-5 | 218 |
| 6. Jacoby Brissett | Washington | 6-4 | 235 |
| 7. Tyrod Taylor | N.Y. Giants | 6-1 | 217 |
| 8. Marcus Mariota | Philadelphia | 6-4 | 222 |
| 9. Mitchell Trubisky | Pittsburgh | 6-2 | 220 |
| 10. Jarrett Stidham | Denver | 6-3 | 215 |

## WIDE RECEIVERS

### THE ONES

#### The Long Ball

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Tyreek Hill | Miami | 5-10 | 185 |
| 2. Justin Jefferson | Minnesota | 6-1 | 195 |
| 3. A.J. Brown | Philadelphia | 6-1 | 226 |
| 4. Cooper Kupp | L.A. Rams | 6-2 | 208 |
| 5. Davante Adams | Las Vegas | 6-1 | 215 |
| 6. Stefon Diggs | Buffalo | 6-0 | 191 |
| 7. Ja'Marr Chase | Cincinnati | 6-0 | 201 |
| 8. CeeDee Lamb | Dallas | 6-2 | 197 |
| 9. Deebo Samuel | San Francisco | 6-0 | 215 |
| 10. Amari Cooper | Cleveland | 6-1 | 211 |
| 11. Mike Evans | Tampa Bay | 6-5 | 231 |
| 12. Jerry Jeudy | Denver | 6-1 | 193 |
| 13. Marquez Valdes-Scantling | Kansas City | 6-4 | 206 |
| 14. Christian Kirk | Jacksonville | 5-11 | 200 |
| 15. Garrett Wilson | N.Y. Jets | 6-0 | 183 |
| Christian Watson | Green Bay | 6-4 | 208 |
| DeVante Parker | New England | 6-3 | 219 |

### PLAYMAKERS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. DK Metcalf | Seattle | 6-4 | 235 |
| 2. Amon-Ra St. Brown | Detroit | 6-0 | 197 |
| 3. DeAndre Hopkins | Arizona | 6-1 | 212 |
| 4. Drake London | Atlanta | 6-4 | 219 |
| 5. DJ Moore | Chicago | 6-0 | 210 |
| 6. Keenan Allen | L.A. Chargers | 6-2 | 211 |
| 7. Michael Thomas | New Orleans | 6-3 | 212 |
| 8. Michael Pittman Jr. | Indianapolis | 6-4 | 223 |
| 9. Diontae Johnson | Pittsburgh | 5-10 | 183 |
| 10. Odell Beckham Jr. | Baltimore | 5-11 | 198 |

### THE TWOS

#### The Long Ball

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Mike Williams | L.A. Chargers | 6-4 | 218 |
| 2. Jaylen Waddle | Miami | 5-10 | 182 |
| 3. Tee Higgins | Cincinnati | 6-4 | 216 |
| 4. Gabe Davis | Buffalo | 6-2 | 210 |
| 5. George Pickens | Pittsburgh | 6-3 | 200 |
| 6. Calvin Ridley | Jacksonville | 6-1 | 190 |
| 7. Chris Olave | New Orleans | 6-0 | 187 |
| 8. Brandon Aiyuk | San Francisco | 6-0 | 200 |
| 9. Terrace Marshall, Jr. | Carolina | 6-2 | 200 |
| 10. Jahan Dotson | Washington | 5-11 | 182 |
| Darius Slayton | N.Y. Giants | 6-1 | 194 |

### PLAYMAKERS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. DeVonta Smith | Philadelphia | 6-0 | 170 |
| 2. Brandin Cooks | Dallas | 5-10 | 183 |
| 3. Chris Godwin | Tampa Bay | 6-1 | 209 |
| 4. Jakobi Meyers | Las Vegas | 6-2 | 200 |
| 5. Tyler Lockett | Seattle | 5-10 | 182 |
| 6. Courtland Sutton | Denver | 6-4 | 216 |
| 7. JuJu Smith-Schuster | New England | 6-1 | 215 |
| 8. Allen Lazard | N.Y. Jets | 6-5 | 227 |
| 9. Zay Jones | Jacksonville | 6-2 | 200 |
| 10. Darnell Mooney | Chicago | 5-11 | 173 |

*Not rated due to suspension: Jameson Williams, Detroit*

### THE THREES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Tyler Boyd | Cincinnati | 6-2 | 203 |
| 2. Tim Patrick | Denver | 6-4 | 212 |
| 3. Hunter Renfrow | Las Vegas | 5-10 | 185 |
| 4. K.J. Osborn | Minnesota | 5-11 | 203 |
| 5. Allen Robinson II | Pittsburgh | 6-2 | 210 |
| 6. Curtis Samuel | Washington | 5-11 | 195 |
| 7. Michael Gallup | Dallas | 6-1 | 205 |
| 8. Olamide Zaccheaus | Philadelphia | 5-8 | 193 |
| 9. Elijah Moore | Cleveland | 5-10 | 178 |
| 10. Jauan Jennings | San Francisco | 6-3 | 212 |
| Rashid Shaheed | New Orleans | 6-0 | 180 |

## TIGHT ENDS

### STARTERS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Travis Kelce | Kansas City | 6-5 | 256 |
| 2. George Kittle | San Francisco | 6-4 | 250 |
| 3. Mark Andrews | Baltimore | 6-5 | 256 |
| 4. Kyle Pitts | Atlanta | 6-6 | 245 |
| 5. Dallas Goedert | Philadelphia | 6-5 | 256 |
| 6. Darren Waller | N.Y. Giants | 6-6 | 255 |
| 7. T.J. Hockenson | Minnesota | 6-5 | 248 |
| 8. Dawson Knox | Buffalo | 6-4 | 254 |
| 9. David Njoku | Cleveland | 6-4 | 246 |
| 10. Dalton Schultz | Houston | 6-5 | 255 |
| 11. Evan Engram | Jacksonville | 6-3 | 240 |
| 12. C.J. Uzomah | N.Y. Jets | 6-6 | 260 |
| 13. Pat Freiermuth | Pittsburgh | 6-5 | 258 |
| 14. Irv Smith Jr. | Cincinnati | 6-2 | 240 |
| 15. Chigoziem Okonkwu | Tennessee | 6-3 | 238 |

### THE TWOS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Mike Gesicki | New England | 6-6 | 247 |
| 2. Isaiah Likely | Baltimore | 6-4 | 235 |
| 3. Robert Tonyan | Chicago | 6-5 | 237 |
| 4. Jordan Akins | Cleveland | 6-4 | 243 |
| 5. Jonnu Smith | Atlanta | 6-3 | 248 |
| 6. Tyler Conklin | N.Y. Jets | 6-3 | 248 |
| 7. Daniel Bellinger | N.Y. Giants | 6-6 | 255 |
| 8. Trey McBride | Arizona | 6-4 | 246 |
| 9. Jelani Woods | Indianapolis | 6-7 | 253 |
| 10. Josh Oliver | Minnesota | 6-5 | 249 |

## RANKING BY TEAM PASSING GAME

(Overall NFL Rank in parentheses)

### AFC BEST

1. CINCINNATI (1)
2. BUFFALO (2)
3. KANSAS CITY (3)
4. L.A. CHARGERS (5)
5. N.Y. JETS (6)

### NFC BEST

1. PHILADELPHIA (3)
2. MINNESOTA (10)
3. SEATTLE (11)
4. N.Y. GIANTS (12)
5. DALLAS (13)

## RUNNING BACKS

### THE ONES

#### Ground & Pound

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Derrick Henry | Tennessee | 6-3 | 247 |
| 2. Nick Chubb | Cleveland | 5-11 | 227 |
| 3. Jonathan Taylor | Indianapolis | 5-10 | 226 |
| 4. Dalvin Cook | Minnesota | 5-10 | 210 |
| 5. J.K. Dobbins | Baltimore | 5-10 | 212 |
| 6. Miles Sanders | Carolina | 5-11 | 211 |
| 7. Dameon Pierce | Houston | 5-10 | 218 |
| 8. Kenneth Walker III | Seattle | 5-9 | 209 |
| 9. Cam Akers | L.A. Rams | 5-10 | 217 |
| 10. Brian Robinson Jr. | Washington | 6-1 | 228 |
| Travis Etienne Jr. | Jacksonville | 5-10 | 215 |

#### AIR & GROUND

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Christian McCaffrey | San Francisco | 5-11 | 205 |
| 2. Austin Ekeler | L.A. Chargers | 5-10 | 200 |
| 3. Josh Jacobs | Las Vegas | 5-10 | 220 |
| 4. Saquon Barkley | N.Y. Giants | 6-0 | 232 |
| 5. Alvin Kamara | New Olreans | 5-10 | 215 |
| 6. Aaron Jones | Green Bay | 5-9 | 208 |
| 7. Joe Mixon | Cincinnati | 6-1 | 220 |
| 8. Tony Pollard | Dallas | 6-0 | 212 |
| 9. Najee Harris | Pittsburgh | 6-1 | 232 |
| 10. Rhamondre Stevenson | New England | 6-0 | 230 |
| James Conner | Arizona | 6-1 | 233 |

*Not rated due to Injury status: Breece Hall, N.Y. Jets; Javonte Williams, Denver*

### THE TWOS

#### Ground & Pound

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. A.J. Dillon | Green Bay | 6-0 | 247 |
| 2. Jamaal Williams | New Orleans | 6-0 | 224 |
| 3. David Montgomery | Detroit | 5-11 | 224 |
| 4. Elijah Mitchell | San Francisco | 5-10 | 200 |
| 5. Tyler Allgeier | Atlanta | 5-11 | 224 |
| 6. Alexander Mattison | Minnesota | 5-11 | 215 |
| 7. James Robinson | New England | 5-9 | 219 |
| 8. Damien Harris | Buffalo | 5-11 | 213 |

#### AIR & GROUND

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Jerick McKinnon | Kansas City | 5-9 | 205 |
| 2. Antonio Gibson | Washington | 6-2 | 221 |
| 3. D'Andre Swift | Philadelphia | 5-9 | 211 |
| 4. Samaje Perine | Denver | 5-11 | 240 |
| 5. Michael Carter | N.Y. Jets | 5-8 | 201 |

#### FULLBACKS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Kyle Juszczyk | San Francisco | 6-1 | 235 |
| 2. Patrick Ricard | Baltimore | 6-3 | 300 |
| 3. Alec Ingold | Miami | 6-1 | 240 |
| 4. Keith Smith | Atlanta | 6-0 | 240 |
| 5. Jakob Johnson | Las Vegas | 6-3 | 255 |
| 5. C.J. Ham | Minnesota | 5-11 | 250 |

## RANKING BY TEAM RUNNING GAME

(Overall NFL Rank in parentheses)

### AFC BEST

1. TENNESSEE (4)
2. LAS VEGAS (5)
3. BALTIMORE (6)
4. INDIANAPOLIS (9)
5. CLEVELAND (10)

### NFC BEST

1. SAN FRANCISCO (1)
2. N.Y. GIANTS (2)
3. GREEN BAY (3)
4. ATLANTA (7)
5. PHILADELPHIA (8)

## OFFENSIVE TACKLES

### LEFT

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Trent Williams | San Francisco | 6-5 | 320 |
| 2. Laremy Tunsil | Houston | 6-5 | 313 |
| 3. Rashawn Slater | L.A. Chargers | 6-4 | 315 |
| 4. Tristin Wirfs | Tampa Bay | 6-5 | 320 |
| 5. Andrew Thomas | N.Y. Giants | 6-5 | 315 |
| 6. Terron Armstead | Miami | 6-5 | 304 |
| 7. Christian Darrisaw | Minnesota | 6-5 | 315 |
| 8. Kolton Miller | Las Vegas | 6-8 | 325 |
| 9. Dion Dawkins | Buffalo | 6-5 | 320 |
| 10. Tyler Smith | Dallas | 6-5 | 324 |
| 11. Orlando Brown Jr. | Cincinnati | 6-8 | 363 |
| 12. Ronnie Stanley | Baltimore | 6-6 | 315 |
| 13. Jedrick Wills Jr. | Cleveland | 6-4 | 307 |
| 14. David Bakhtiari | Green Bay | 6-4 | 310 |
| 15. Donovan Smith | Kansas City | 6-6 | 338 |
| Jake Matthews | Atlanta | 6-5 | 309 |

*Not rated due to injury status: Duane Brown, N.Y. Jets*
*Not rated due to suspension: Cam Robinson, Jacksonville*

### RIGHT

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Lane Johnson | Philadelphia | 6-6 | 325 |
| 2. Penei Sewell | Detroit | 6-5 | 331 |
| 3. Mike McGlinchey | Denver | 6-8 | 310 |
| 4. Braden Smith | Indianapolis | 6-6 | 312 |
| 5. Taylor Moton | Carolina | 6-5 | 325 |
| 6. Ryan Ramczyk | New Orleans | 6-6 | 314 |
| 7. Jack Conklin | Cleveland | 6-6 | 308 |
| 8. Morgan Moses | Baltimore | 6-6 | 330 |
| 9. Jawaan Taylor | Kansas City | 6-5 | 330 |
| 10. Brian O'Neill | Minnesota | 6-7 | 310 |
| Tytus Howard | Houston | 6-5 | 322 |

*Not rated due to injury status: Mekhi Becton, N.Y. Jets; La'el Collins, Cincinnati*

## GUARDS

### LEFT

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Joel Bitonio | Cleveland | 6-4 | 320 |
| 2. Joe Thuney | Kansas City | 6-6 | 304 |
| 3. Quenton Nelson | Indianapolis | 6-5 | 330 |
| 4. Landon Dickerson | Philadelphia | 6-6 | 333 |
| 5. Elgton Jenkins | Green Bay | 6-5 | 311 |
| 6. Isaac Seumalo | Pittsburgh | 6-4 | 303 |
| 7. *Terence Steele | Dallas | 6-6 | 318 |
| 8. Ben Powers | Denver | 6-4 | 310 |
| 9. Laken Tomlinson | N.Y. Jets | 6-3 | 315 |
| 10. Jonah Jackson | Detroit | 6-4 | 308 |
| Ezra Cleveland | Minnesota | 6-6 | 312 |

**Could start at RT.*

### RIGHT

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Zack Martin | Dallas | 6-4 | 316 |
| 2. Chris Lindstrom | Atlanta | 6-4 | 307 |
| 3. Michael Onwenu | New England | 6-3 | 350 |
| 4. Wyatt Teller | Cleveland | 6-4 | 315 |
| 5. Kevin Zeitler | Baltimore | 6-4 | 315 |
| 6. Trey Smith | Kansas City | 6-6 | 329 |
| 7. Alijah Vera-Tucker | N.Y. Jets | 6-5 | 308 |
| 8. Robert Hunt | Miami | 6-6 | 327 |
| 9. Brandon Scherff | Jacksonville | 6-5 | 315 |
| 10. Shaq Mason | Houston | 6-1 | 310 |
| Alex Cappa | Cincinnati | 6-6 | 305 |

## CENTERS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Creed Humphrey | Kansas City | 6-5 | 309 |
| 2. Jason Kelce | Philadelphia | 6-3 | 295 |
| 3. Corey Linsley | L.A. Chargers | 6-3 | 301 |
| 4. Frank Ragnow | Detroit | 6-5 | 311 |
| 5. Ryan Jensen | Tampa Bay | 6-4 | 319 |
| 6. Erik McCoy | New Orleans | 6-4 | 303 |
| 7. David Andrews | New England | 6-3 | 300 |
| 8. Ryan Kelly | Indianapolis | 6-4 | 307 |
| 9. Connor Williams | Miami | 6-5 | 320 |
| 10. Bradley Bozeman | Carolina | 6-5 | 325 |
| Mitch Morse | Buffalo | 6-6 | 305 |

*Not rated due to injury status (released): Chase Roullier, Washington*

## RANKING BY TEAM OFFENSIVE LINE

(Overall NFL Rank in parentheses)

### AFC BEST

1. BALTIMORE (3)
2. KANSAS CITY (4)
2. INDIANAPOLIS (4)
3. CLEVELAND (5)
4. L.A. CHARGERS (6)
5. CINCINNATI (9)

### NFC BEST

1. DETROIT (1)
2. PHILADELPHIA (2)
3. GREEN BAY (7)
4. SAN FRANCISCO (8)
5. MINNESOTA (10)

## DEFENSIVE TACKLES

### NOSE TACKLES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Vita Vea | Tampa Bay | 6-4 | 347 |
| 2. Dexter Lawrence II | N.Y. Giants | 6-4 | 342 |
| 3. Davon Godchaux | New England | 6-3 | 311 |
| 4. D.J. Reader | Cincinnati | 6-3 | 347 |
| 5. Michael Pierce | Baltimore | 6-0 | 345 |
| 6. Daniel Onyemata | Atlanta | 6-4 | 300 |
| 7. D.J. Jones | Denver | 6-0 | 305 |
| 8. Davon Hamilton | Jacksonville | 6-4 | 335 |
| 9. Teair Tart | Tennessee | 6-2 | 304 |
| 10. Sebastian Joseph-Day | L.A. Chargers | 6-4 | 310 |
| Harrison Phillips | Minnesota | 6-3 | 307 |
| Grover Stewart | Indianapolis | 6-4 | 314 |

### 4-3 DT

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Chris Jones | Kansas City | 6-6 | 298 |
| 2. Quinnen Williams | N.Y. Jets | 6-3 | 303 |
| 3. DeForest Buckner | Indianapolis | 6-7 | 295 |
| 4. Jonathan Allen | Washington | 6-3 | 300 |
| 5. Fletcher Cox | Philadelphia | 6-4 | 310 |
| 6. Daron Payne | Washington | 6-3 | 320 |
| 7. Javon Hargrave | San Francisco | 6-2 | 305 |
| 8. Dalvin Tomlinson | Cleveland | 6-3 | 325 |
| 9. Ed Oliver | Buffalo | 6-1 | 287 |
| 10. B.J. Hill | Cincinnati | 6-3 | 311 |
| 11. DaQuan Jones | Buffalo | 6-4 | 320 |
| 12. Derrick Nnani | Kansas City | 6-1 | 317 |
| 13. Arik Armstead | San Francisco | 6-7 | 290 |
| 14. Isaiah Buggs | Detroit | 6-3 | 295 |
| 15. Sheldon Rankins | Houston | 6-2 | 305 |

## 4-3 DEFENSIVE ENDS

### LEFT

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Myles Garrett | Cleveland | 6-4 | 272 |
| 2. Nick Bosa | San Francisco | 6-4 | 266 |
| 3. Maxx Crosby | Las Vegas | 6-5 | 255 |
| 4. Montez Sweat | Washington | 6-6 | 262 |
| 5. DeMarcus Lawrence | Dallas | 6-3 | 254 |
| 6. Josh Sweat | Philadelphia | 6-5 | 265 |
| 7. Cam Jordan | New Orleans | 6-4 | 287 |
| 8. Sam Hubbard | Cincinnati | 6-5 | 265 |
| 9. Greg Rousseau | Buffalo | 6-6 | 266 |
| 10. Kwity Paye | Indianapolis | 6-3 | 265 |
| George Karlaftis | Kansas City | 6-4 | 275 |

### RIGHT

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Micah Parsons | Dallas | 6-3 | 248 |
| 2. Aidan Hutchinson | Detroit | 6-7 | 260 |
| 3. Chandler Jones | Las Vegas | 6-5 | 255 |
| 4. Trey Hendrickson | Cincinnati | 6-4 | 270 |
| 5. Brandon Graham | Philadelphia | 6-2 | 265 |
| 6. Chase Young | Washington | 6-5 | 265 |
| 7. Ogbo Okoronkwo | Cleveland | 6-2 | 253 |
| 8. Jonathan Greenard | Houston | 6-3 | 263 |
| 9. Samson Ebukam | Indianapolis | 6-3 | 245 |
| 10. Carl Lawson | N.Y. Jets | 6-2 | 265 |
| Charles Omenihu | Kansas City | 6-5 | 280 |

*Not rated due to injury status: Von Miller, Buffalo*

## 3-4 LINEMEN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Aaron Donald | L.A. Rams | 6-1 | 280 |
| 2. Jeffery Simmons | Tennessee | 6-4 | 305 |
| 3. Cameron Heyward | Pittsburgh | 6-5 | 295 |
| 4. Derrick Brown | Carolina | 6-5 | 320 |
| 5. Christian Wilkins | Miami | 6-4 | 310 |
| 6. Grady Jarrett | Atlanta | 6-0 | 305 |
| 7. Christian Barmore | New England | 6-5 | 310 |
| 8. Dre'Mont Jones | Seattle | 6-3 | 281 |
| 9. Kenny Clark | Green Bay | 6-3 | 314 |
| 10. Zach Allen | Denver | 6-5 | 285 |
| 11. Denico Autry | Tennessee | 6-5 | 285 |
| 12. Lawrence Guy | New England | 6-4 | 315 |
| 13. A'Shawn Robinson | N.Y. Giants | 6-4 | 330 |
| 14. Justin Madubuike | Baltimore | 6-3 | 300 |

## RANKING BY TEAM
## DEFENSIVE LINE

(Overall NFL Rank in parentheses)

### AFC BEST

1. KANSAS CITY (5)
2. CINCINNATI (6)
3. TENNESSEE (7)
4. MIAMI (8)
5. NEW ENGLAND (9)

### NFC BEST

1. PHILADELPHIA (1)
2. SAN FRANCISCO (2)
3. WASHINGTON (3)
4. DALLAS (4)
5. L.A. RAMS (10)

## LINEBACKERS

### 4-3 INSIDE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Fred Warner | San Francisco | 6-3 | 230 |
| 2. Demario Davis | New Orleans | 6-2 | 248 |
| 3. Matt Milano | Buffalo | 6-0 | 223 |
| 4. C.J. Mosley | N.Y. Jets | 6-2 | 231 |
| 5. Tremaine Edmunds | Chicago | 6-5 | 250 |
| 6. Nick Bolton | Kansas City | 6-0 | 237 |
| 7. Zaven Collins | Arizona | 6-4 | 260 |
| 8. Germaine Pratt | Cincinnati | 6-3 | 245 |
| 9. Denzel Perryman | Houston | 5-11 | 240 |
| 10. Zaire Franklin | Indianapolis | 6-0 | 235 |
| 10. Leighton Vander Esch | Dallas | 6-4 | 255 |
| Logan Wilson | Cincinnati | 6-2 | 241 |

### 3-4 INSIDE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Roquan Smith | Baltimore | 6-1 | 232 |
| 2. Ja'Whaun Bentley | New England | 6-2 | 255 |
| 3. Lavonte David | Tampa Bay | 6-1 | 233 |
| 4. Bobby Wagner | Seattle | 6-0 | 241 |
| 5. Devin White | Tampa Bay | 6-0 | 237 |
| 6. Azeez Al-Shaair | Tennessee | 6-2 | 228 |
| 7. Eric Kendricks | L.A. Chargers | 6-0 | 232 |
| 8. Bobby Okereke | N.Y. Giants | 6-2 | 235 |
| 9. Foyesade Oluokon | Jacksonville | 6-2 | 215 |
| 10. Jordan Hicks | Minnesota | 6-1 | 236 |
| Ernest Jones | L.A. Rams | 6-2 | 230 |

*Not rated due to injury status: Jordyn Brooks, Seattle*

### 4-3 OUTSIDE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Haason Reddick | Philadelphia | 6-1 | 240 |
| 2. Shaq Leonard | Indianapolis | 6-2 | 230 |
| 3. Dre Greenlaw | San Francisco | 6-0 | 230 |
| 4. Christian Harris | Houston | 6-1 | 226 |
| 5. Willie Gay | Kansas City | 6-1 | 236 |
| 6. T.J. Edwards | Chicago | 6-1 | 242 |
| 7. Jamin Davis | Washington | 6-3 | 234 |
| 8. James Houston | Detroit | 6-1 | 241 |
| 9. Pete Werner | New Orleans | 6-3 | 242 |
| 10. Jack Sanborn | Chicago | 6-2 | 234 |
| Quincy Williams | N.Y. Jets | 5-11 | 225 |

### 3-4 OUTSIDE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. T.J. Watt | Pittsburgh | 6-4 | 252 |
| 2. Joey Bosa | L.A. Chargers | 6-5 | 280 |
| 3. Brian Burns | Carolina | 6-5 | 250 |
| 4. Khalil Mack | L.A. Chargers | 6-3 | 269 |
| 5. Matt Judon | New England | 6-3 | 261 |
| 6. Keyvon Thibodeaux | N.Y. Giants | 6-4 | 258 |
| 7. Danielle Hunter | Minnesota | 6-5 | 263 |
| 8. Rashan Gary | Green Bay | 6-5 | 227 |
| 9. Bradley Chubb | Miami | 6-4 | 275 |
| 10. Za'Darius Smith | Minnesota | 6-4 | 272 |
| 11. Jaelen Phillips | Miami | 6-5 | 266 |
| 12. Shaq Barrett | Tampa Bay | 6-2 | 250 |
| 13. Alex Highsmith | Pittsburgh | 6-4 | 242 |
| 14. Randy Gregory | Denver | 6-5 | 242 |
| 15. Preston Smith | Green Bay | 6-5 | 265 |
| Uchenne Nwosu | Seattle | 6-2 | 251 |

*Not rated due to injury status: Harold Landry III, Tennessee*

## RANKING BY TEAM
## LINEBACKERS

(Overall NFL Rank in parentheses)

### AFC BEST

1. L.A. CHARGERS (4)
2. PITTSBURGH (5)
3. BALTIMORE (8)
4. MIAMI (9)
5. NEW ENGLAND (10)

### NFC BEST

1. SAN FRANCISCO (1)
2. MINNESOTA (2)
3. TAMPA BAY (3)
4. CAROLINA (6)
5. CHICAGO (7)

## SAFETIES

### FREE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Justin Simmons | Denver | 6-2 | 202 |
| 2. Micah Hyde | Buffalo | 6-0 | 197 |
| 3. Kevin Byard | Tennessee | 5-11 | 212 |
| 4. Marcus Williams | Baltimore | 6-1 | 195 |
| 5. Eddie Jackson | Chicago | 6-0 | 206 |
| 6. Quandre Diggs | Seattle | 5-9 | 197 |
| 7. Antoine Winfield Jr. | Tampa Bay | 5-9 | 203 |
| 8. Jevon Holland | Miami | 6-1 | 207 |
| 9. Marcus Maye | New Orleans | 6-0 | 207 |
| 10. Jordan Whitehead | N.Y. Jets | 5-10 | 198 |
| 11. Adrian Phillips | New England | 5-11 | 210 |
| 12. Richie Grant | Atlanta | 6-0 | 194 |
| 13. Jalen Thompson | Arizona | 5-11 | 190 |
| 14. Jalen Mills | New England | 6-0 | 191 |
| 15. Malik Hooker | Dallas | 6-2 | 212 |

### STRONG

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Budda Baker | Arizona | 5-10 | 195 |
| 2. Minkah Fitzpatrick | Pittsburgh | 6-1 | 207 |
| 3. Jordan Poyer | Buffalo | 6-0 | 191 |
| 4. Derwin James Jr. | L.A. Chargers | 6-2 | 215 |
| 5. Tyrann Mathieu | New Orleans | 5-9 | 190 |
| 6. Jessie Bates III | Atlanta | 6-1 | 200 |
| 7. Kyle Hamilton | Baltimore | 6-4 | 220 |
| 8. Donovan Wilson | Dallas | 6-0 | 210 |
| 9. Kamren Curl | Washington | 6-2 | 198 |
| 10. Chuck Clark | N.Y. Jets | 6-0 | 205 |
| 11. Talanoa Hufanga | San Francisco | 6-0 | 200 |
| 12. Grant Delpit | Cleveland | 6-3 | 208 |
| 13. Justin Reid | Kansas City | 6-1 | 203 |
| 14. Harrison Smith | Minnesota | 6-2 | 211 |
| 15. Ryan Neal | Tampa Bay | 6-3 | 200 |
| Marcus Epps | Las Vegas | 6-0 | 191 |

*Not rated due to injury status: Jamal Adams, Seattle; Xavier McKinney, N.Y. Giants*

## CORNERBACKS

### THE ONES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Pat Surtain II | Denver | 6-2 | 202 |
| 2. Jaire Alexander | Green Bay | 5-10 | 196 |
| 3. Marshawn Lattimore | New Orleans | 6-0 | 192 |
| 4. Trevon Diggs | Dallas | 6-1 | 204 |
| 5. Darius Slay | Philadelphia | 6-0 | 190 |
| 6. Sauce Gardner | N.Y. Jets | 6-3 | 190 |
| 7. Marlon Humphrey | Baltimore | 6-0 | 197 |
| 8. Chidobe Awuzie | Cincinnati | 6-0 | 202 |
| 9. Jalen Ramsey | Miami | 6-1 | 208 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10. Denzel Ward | Cleveland | 5-11 | 190 |
| 11. Asante Samuel, Jr. | L.A. Chargers | 5-10 | 180 |
| 12. Tre'Davious White | Buffalo | 5-11 | 192 |
| 13. A.J. Terrell | Atlanta | 6-1 | 195 |
| 14. La'Jarius Sneed | Kansas City | 6-1 | 189 |
| 15. Charvarius Ward | San Francisco | 6-1 | 196 |
| Jaycee Horn | Carolina | 6-1 | 200 |

### THE TWOS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. James Bradberry | Philadelphia | 6-1 | 212 |
| 2. Stephon Gilmore | Dallas | 6-0 | 190 |
| 3. Xavien Howard | Miami | 6-1 | 198 |
| 4. J.C. Jackson | L.A. Chargers | 6-1 | 198 |
| 5. Tariq Woolen | Seattle | 6-4 | 210 |
| 6. D.J. Reed | N.Y. Jets | 5-9 | 193 |
| 7. Emmanuel Moseley | Detroit | 5-11 | 190 |
| 8. Carlton Davis III | Tampa Bay | 6-1 | 206 |
| 9. Steven Nelson | Houston | 5-11 | 194 |
| 10. Rasul Douglas | Green Bay | 6-2 | 209 |

## NICKEL BACKS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Taron Johnson | Buffalo | 5-11 | 192 |
| 2. K'Waun Williams | Denver | 5-9 | 185 |
| 3. Kenny Moore II | Indianapolis | 5-9 | 190 |
| 4. C.J. Gardner-Johnson | Detroit | 5-11 | 210 |
| 5. Trent McDuffie | Kansas City | 5-11 | 195 |
| 6. Avonte Maddox | Philadelphia | 5-9 | 184 |
| 7. Mike Hilton | Cincinnati | 5-9 | 184 |
| 8. Greg Newsome II | Cleveland | 6-0 | 192 |
| 9. Elijah Molden | Tennessee | 5-10 | 192 |
| 10. Jourdan Lewis | Dallas | 5-10 | 190 |
| Desmond King II | Houston | 5-10 | 200 |

## RANKING BY TEAM
## SECONDARY

(Overall NFL Rank in parentheses)

### AFC BEST

1. BUFFALO (2)
2. DENVER (3)
3. MIAMI (5)
4. CLEVELAND (6)
5. BALTIMORE (7)

### NFC BEST

1. DALLAS (1)
2. NEW ORLEANS (4)
3. SEATTLE (8)
4. TAMPA BAY (9)
5. PHILADELPHIA (10)

## ALL-PURPOSE

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Marcus Jones | RB/DB/RS | New England | 5-8 | 175 |
| 2. Taysom Hill | TE/QB//RBCov | New Orleans | 6-2 | 221 |
| 3. Nyheim Hines | RB/RS | Buffalo | 5-9 | 196 |
| 4. Keisean Nixon | CB/RS | Green Bay | 5-10 | 200 |
| 5. Cordarrelle Patterson | WR/RB/RS | Atlanta | 6-2 | 227 |
| 6. Jamal Agnew | WR/RS | Jacksonville | 5-10 | 190 |
| 7. Velus Jones Jr. | WR/RS | Chicago | 6-0 | 200 |
| 8. DeAndre Carter | WR/RS | Las Vegas | 5-8 | 190 |
| 9. Braxton Berrios | WR/RS | Miami | 5-9 | 190 |
| 10. Kalif Raymond | WR/RS | Detroit | 5-8 | 182 |
| 11. KaVontae Turpin | WR/RS | Dallas | 5-9 | 153 |
| 12. Ray-Ray McCloud | WR/RS | San Francisco | 5-9 | 190 |
| 13. Isiah Pacheco | RB/RS | Kansas City | 5-11 | 215 |
| 14. Jakeem Grant | WR/RS | Cleveland | 5-6 | 170 |
| 15. Isaiah Simmons | LB/DB | Arizona | 6-4 | 238 |

## RANKING BY TEAM
## SPECIAL TEAMS

(Overall NFL Rank in parentheses)

### AFC BEST

1. BALTIMORE (1)
2. LAS VEGAS (2)
3. BUFFALO (3)
4. CLEVELAND (6)
5. INDIANAPOLIS (8)

### NFC BEST

1. SEATTLE (4)
2. DETROIT (5)
3. ATLANTA (7)
4. CAROLINA (11)
5. CHICAGO (12)

## BEST IN THE TRENCHES

Offensive and Defensive Lines Combined

(Overall NFL Rank in parentheses)

### AFC BEST

1. KANSAS CITY (3)
2. CINCINNATI (5)
3. BALTIMORE (6)
4. MIAMI (7)
5. CLEVELAND (T-9)
   NEW ENGLAND (T-9)

### NFC BEST

1. PHILADELPHIA (1)
2. SAN FRANCISCO (2)
3. DETROIT (4)
4. DALLAS (8)
5. GREEN BAY (11)

## BEST SKILLED TALENT

Skilled Offensive and Defensive Talent Combined

(Overall NFL Rank in parentheses)

### AFC BEST

1. L.A. CHARGERS (1)
2. MIAMI (2)
3. CINCINNATI (5)
4. KANSAS CITY (6)
5. BUFFALO (7)

### NFC BEST

1. SAN FRANCISCO (3)
2. PHILADLEPHIA (4)
3. NEW ORLEANS (9)
4. N.Y. GIANTS (11)
5. SEATTLE (13)

## RANKING BY TEAM
## BEST OVERALL UNITS

### AFC BEST

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. CINCINNATI | PASSING GAME |
| 2. BUFFALO | PASSING GAME |
| 3. BALTIMORE | OFFENSIVE LINE |
| 4. KANSAS CITY | OFFENSIVE LINE |
| 5. BUFFALO | SECONDARY |
| BALTIMORE | SPECIAL TEAMS |

### NFC BEST

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. DETROIT | OFFENSIVE LINE |
| 2. SAN FRANCISCO | RUSHING GAME |
| 3. N.Y. GIANTS | RUSHING GAME |
| 4. PHILADELPHIA | PASSING GAME |
| 5. PHILADELPHIA | DEFENSIVE LINE |
| DALLAS | SECONDARY |

## BEST OFFENSIVE TEAMS

### AFC BEST

1. KANSAS CITY (2)
2. LA CHARGERS (3)
3. CINCINNATI (4)
4. BALTIMORE (5)
5. MIAMI (T-7)
   CLEVELAND (T-7)

### NFC BEST

1. PHILADELPHIA (1)
2. SAN FRANCISCO (6)
3. N.Y. GIANTS (T-7)
4. MINNESOTA (10)
5. DETROIT (T-11)
   SEATTLE (T-11)

## BEST DEFENSIVE TEAMS

### AFC BEST

1. MIAMI (2)
2. CINCINNATI (6)
3. BALTIMORE (7)
4. PITTSBURGH (8)
5. L.A. CHARGERS (T-10)
   NEW ENGLAND (T-10)

### NFC BEST

1. SAN FRANCISCO (1)
2. DALLAS (3)
3. PHILADELPHIA (4)
4. TAMPA BAY (5)
5. NEW ORLEANS (9)

*The following unsigned players have been omitted from the ratings because of their uncertain status: Teddy Bridgewater, QB; Frank Clark, DE; Jadeveon Clowney, OLB; Ezekiel Elliott, RB; Leonard Floyd, OLB; Leonard Fournette, RB; Kareem Hunt, RB; OLB; John Johnson, S; Yannick Ngakoue, DE; Marcus Peters, CB; Dalton Risner, G; Carson Wentz, QB; Isaiah Wynn, T*

# A LOOK AHEAD TO THE 2024 DRAFT

By Ric Serritella
Founder, NFL Draft Bible

The 2023 draft is now history, and while the 259 players selected will be soon in training camps competing for jobs, attention has already turned to next year. At this early juncture, before a game in 2023 has been played, the following players are considered to be the top draft-eligible prospects in 2024.

## QUARTERBACKS

Overall, the QB Class of 2024 would appear to be very strong and has already generated plenty of excitement within the scouting community. The search for the "next Patrick Mahomes" may sound cliché, but Caleb Williams is the closest comparison known to date. His ability to extend plays, alter arm angles and air it out would project him to be the top quarterback prospect in the last three years. It has been a rebirth in Chapel Hill for Drake Maye. After a brief commitment to Alabama, the sniper-accurate Maye possesses prototypical size, awareness and arm strength. In Colorado, excitement is pouring in with much ado about Shedeur Sanders, who followed his dad over from Jackson State and could be the ultimate wild card in the draft class. Meanwhile, once-heralded prospects such as Spencer Rattler and DJ Uiagalelei look to recapture some of the luster that has been lost on their draft stock. One player worth keeping an eye on is dual-threat Michael Pratt who accounted for 37 touchdowns with only five interceptions in 2022. There is no limit as to how high he could ascend come next April.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Caleb Williams | Southern Cal | Jr | 6-1 | 220 |
| 2. | Drake Maye | North Carolina | rSo | 6-4 | 220 |
| 3. | Quinn Ewers | Texas | rSo | 6-2 | 207 |
| 4. | Michael Penix Jr. | Washington | rSr | 6-2 | 213 |
| 5. | Shedeur Sanders | Colorado | Jr | 6-1 | 215 |
| 6. | Bo Nix | Oregon | rSr | 6-2 | 213 |
| 7. | JJ McCarthy | Michigan | Jr | 6-3 | 196 |
| 8. | Cameron Ward | Washington State | rJr | 6-2 | 220 |
| 9. | Michael Pratt | Tulane | Sr | 6-3 | 220 |
| 10. | Jordan Travis | Florida State | rSr | 6-1 | 212 |
| 11. | Spencer Rattler | South Carolina | rSr | 6-0 | 215 |
| 12. | Cameron Rising | Utah | rSr | 6-1 | 218 |
| 13. | Jayden Daniels | Louisiana State | rSr | 6-3 | 200 |
| 14. | Jaxon Dart | Mississippi | Jr | 6-2 | 220 |
| 15. | Grayson McCall | Coastal Carolina | rSr | 6-2 | 215 |
| 16. | Joe Milton III | Tennessee | rSr | 6-5 | 245 |
| 17. | Will Rogers | Mississippi State | Sr | 6-2 | 210 |
| 18. | Sam Hartman | Notre Dame | rSr | 6-1 | 210 |
| 19. | Riley Leonard | Duke | Jr | 6-3 | 212 |
| 20. | DJ Uiagalelei | Oregon State | Sr | 6-4 | 235 |

## RUNNING BACKS

While the RB Class of 2024 does not have a Bijan Robinson-caliber running back, NFL teams could certainly find talent in this group. Multiple rushers are in the mix for RB1. Braelon Allen is a physical, imposing back who has proven that he can be a bell-cow and accumulate touches in a run-heavy scheme. Meanwhile, Razorbacks fans are optimistic that Raheim Sanders, nicknamed "Rocket," will build on a breakout 2022 campaign while continuing to showcase great burst for his size. Treveyon Henderson will try to recreate the magic from his stellar freshman season in 2021 and could himself be an early-round pick if he bounces back and puts it all together for a full season again. All eyes are on Blake Corum, as he hopes to combine with QB JJ McCarthy to challenge for a national title again — he may be the fastest runner in the class, but his size is a concern. Meanwhile, perhaps the most intriguing prospect of the group is Frank Gore Jr., the son of legendary NFL running back Frank Gore. Gore Jr. looks to pick up right where he left off in the 2022 Lending Tree Bowl, in which he racked up an NCAA bowl-record 329 yards on the ground.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Braelon Allen | Wisconsin | Jr | 6-2 | 235 |
| 2. | Raheim Sanders | Arkansas | Jr | 6-1 | 227 |
| 3. | Traveyon Henderson | Ohio State | Jr | 5-10 | 214 |
| 4. | Will Shipley | Clemson | Jr | 5-10 | 205 |
| 5. | Jace McClellan | Alabama | Sr | 5-10 | 212 |
| 6. | Blake Corum | Michigan | Sr | 5-7 | 210 |
| 7. | Kendall Milton | Georgia | Sr | 6-1 | 220 |
| 8. | Miyan Williams | Ohio State | rJr | 5-8 | 225 |
| 9. | Tiyon Evans | Louisville | rJr | 5-11 | 225 |
| 10. | Montrell Johnson | Florida | Jr | 5-11 | 218 |
| 11. | Donovan Edwards | Michigan | Jr | 6-0 | 204 |
| 12. | Trey Benson | Florida State | rJr | 6-0 | 221 |
| 13. | Carson Steele | UCLA | Jr | 6-0 | 215 |
| 14. | Devin Neal | Kansas | Jr | 5-11 | 210 |
| 15. | Bucky Irving | Oregon | Jr | 5-9 | 194 |
| 16. | MarShawn Lloyd | Southern Cal | rJr | 5-9 | 215 |
| 17. | George Holani | Boise State | rSr | 5-11 | 208 |
| 18. | Blake Watson | Memphis | rSr | 5-9 | 195 |
| 19. | Frank Gore Jr. | Southern Mississippi | rJr | 5-8 | 195 |
| 20. | Jaden Shirden | Monmouth | Jr | 5-9 | 185 |

## FULLBACKS & H-BACKS

Some of the fullbacks and H-backs in the Class of 2024 could find their way onto NFL rosters. Jaheim Bell was solid for South Carolina last season, but he has transferred to the ACC and looks to do damage as a Swiss army knife in the Seminoles offense. Brant Kuithe is a bit of a tweener; he has the pass-catching ability to play tight end, but he is somewhat undersized. He is one of several redshirt seniors in this group. Another one of those redshirt seniors — Jax Dineen — cuts the classic profile of a blocking fullback who can clear a path for a between-the-tackles runner. Jakobi Buchanan, who has some potential as a goal-line rusher, will attempt to become the first Army football player drafted in over 15 years. In addition, FB Luke Hamilton, who has just transferred from Towson, could be an impact player in a solid Mountaineers offense.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Jaheim Bell | Florida State | rJr | 6-3 | 233 |
| 2. | Masen Wake | Brigham Young | rSr | 6-2 | 260 |
| 3. | Cam Large | Wisconsin | rJr | 6-3 | 235 |
| 4. | Brant Kuithe | Utah | rSr | 6-1 | 219 |
| 5. | Jakobi Buchanan | Army | rSr | 5-11 | 260 |
| 6. | Jax Dineen | Kansas State | rSr | 5-11 | 244 |
| 7. | Marshel Martin | Sacramento State | rSr | 6-2 | 210 |
| 8. | Owen Glascoe | Long Island U. | rSr | 6-3 | 258 |
| 9. | Luke Hamilton | West Virginia | rSr | 5-11 | 245 |
| 10. | Noah Bean | Grambling State | rSr | 6-1 | 225 |

# WIDE RECEIVERS

When thinking about the wide receivers in the Class of 2024, the main player to know is Ohio State's Marvin Harrison Jr. The son of NFL Hall of Fame wideout Marvin Harrison, the Buckeye superstar is the complete package: tall, great hands, explosive and technically sound. He could be the first non-quarterback off the board in 2024. His teammate, Emeka Egbuka, should also be in the first-round mix. Egbuka is a hard runner after the catch who displays terrific awareness when running his routes. With LSU in contention for a national title, Malik Nabers will attempt to repeat his terrific 2022 campaign, during which he eclipsed 1,000 yards receiving and established himself as a threat over the middle. The biggest question mark is Xavier Worthy, who plays at an extraordinarily low weight and appears to lack requisite play strength. Worthy has amazing traits, including rare speed and he will need to put it all together this season to justify leaving school early. A prospect who might skyrocket up the board is Oronde Gadsden II, who was remarkably productive last season and brings great size to the position. Jacob Cowing is another player to watch, as he is seemingly always open for the Wildcats.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Marvin Harrison Jr | Ohio State | Jr | 6-3 | 205 |
| 2. | Malik Nabers | Louisiana State | Jr | 6-0 | 195 |
| 3. | Xavier Worthy | Texas | So | 6-1 | 163 |
| 4. | Rome Odunze | Washington | rJr | 6-3 | 201 |
| 5. | Ja'Corey Brooks | Alabama | Jr | 6-2 | 195 |
| 6. | Troy Franklin | Oregon | Jr | 6-2 | 178 |
| 7. | Emeka Egbuka | Ohio State | Jr | 6-1 | 205 |
| 8. | Beaux Collins | Clemson | Jr | 6-2 | 210 |
| 9. | Jermaine Burton | Alabama | Sr | 6-0 | 194 |
| 10. | Bru McCoy | Tennessee | rSr | 6-3 | 220 |
| 11. | Moose Muhammad III | Texas A&M | rJr | 6-1 | 195 |
| 12. | Mario Williams | Southern Cal | Jr | 5-9 | 180 |
| 13. | Johnny Wilson | Florida State | rJr | 6-6 | 240 |
| 14. | Cornelius Johnson | Michigan | rSr | 6-2 | 208 |
| 15. | DeCorian Clark | Texas-San Antonio | rSr | 6-2 | 210 |
| 16. | Julian Fleming | Ohio State | Sr | 6-2 | 205 |
| 17. | Oronde Gadsden II | Syracuse | Jr | 6-4 | 216 |
| 18. | Jalen McMillan | Washington | rJr | 6-1 | 186 |
| 19. | Jacob Cowing | Arizona | rSr | 5-10 | 175 |
| 20. | Ainias Smith | Texas A&M | rSr | 5-10 | 200 |

Marvin Harrison Jr.

Photo by Cecil Copeland/CSM via ZUMA Press Wire via AP Images

# TIGHT ENDS

One of the best tight ends to come out of school in a few seasons, Brock Bowers is a true weapon. A tough player who will make an immediate impact in the passing game, Bowers has a high ceiling as a pro and may warrant serious consideration as high as the top five. Another potential first-rounder is Texas standout Ja'Tavion Sanders, who boasts impressive athleticism for his size and should post big stats this year in the high-powered Longhorns offense. It remains to be seen whether Erick All – a Michigan transfer – will bounce back from life-changing spine surgery and become the next great Hawkeyes tight end to land in the NFL. At one point, analysts projected that Arik Gilbert would be a first-round pick in 2023, but he underwhelmed last season at Georgia and looks for a fresh start with the Cornhuskers. The class features a few more-experienced tight ends, like Benjamin Yurosek, Cade Stover and Tyler Stogner, any of whom could explode this season and put themselves in the mid-round conversation. Finally, don't sleep on McCallan Castles, who transferred in from UC-Davis; he possesses all the tools to be a pro tight end.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Brock Bowers | Georgia | Jr | 6-4 | 230 |
| 2. | Ja'Tavion Sanders | Texas | Jr | 6-4 | 242 |
| 3. | Michael Trigg | Mississippi | Jr | 6-3 | 240 |
| 4. | Erick All | Iowa | rSr | 6-4 | 255 |
| 5. | Arik Gilbert | Nebraska | rJr | 6-5 | 255 |
| 6. | Theo Johnson | Penn State | rJr | 6-5 | 260 |
| 7. | Brevyn Spann-Ford | Minnesota | rSr | 6-7 | 270 |
| 8. | Jake Briningstool | Clemson | Jr | 6-5 | 230 |
| 9. | Benjamin Yurosek | Stanford | Sr | 6-4 | 242 |
| 10. | Cade Stover | Ohio State | rSr | 6-4 | 255 |
| 11. | Thomas Yassmin | Utah | rSr | 6-5 | 251 |
| 12. | Tyler Warren | Penn State | rJr | 6-5 | 256 |
| 13. | Austin Stogner | Oklahoma | rSr | 6-5 | 250 |
| 14. | Devin Culp | Washington | rSr | 6-4 | 239 |
| 15. | Luke Lachey | Iowa | rJr | 6-5 | 252 |
| 16. | Trey Knox | South Carolina | rSr | 6-4 | 245 |
| 17. | Jalin Conyers | Arizona State | rJr | 6-3 | 265 |
| 18. | Gavin Bartholomew | Pittsburgh | Jr | 6-4 | 255 |
| 19. | McCallan Castles | Tennessee | rSr | 6-5 | 238 |
| 20. | Zach Heins | South Dakota State | rSr | 6-7 | 250 |

# TACKLES

The Class of 2024 tackles are a solid bunch. One of the top players in the group is Olumuyiwa Fashanu, who has already begun to rack up honors and routinely stonewalled pass rushers at left tackle for the Nittany Lions last season. Another player who could end up in the top 10 is Joe Alt – a mountain of a man who was first-team All-American in 2022 and run blocks as well as anyone in the class. Jordan Morgan is also an excellent prospect who demonstrates great feel for the pocket when setting the edge. JC Latham could be a starter at the next level, but he will need to improve a bit as a run blocker to show that he is a complete player. Zion Nelson probably made the right decision when returning to school after missing almost all of 2022 with a knee injury; at one time, evaluators saw him as a potential first-round pick. A sleeper first-round possibility is Kingsley Suamataia, who is a well-built blocker yet nimble enough to be effective in all phases of the game. Also, Javon Foster appears to be the real deal, and he will have his work cut out for him this season in the SEC.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Olumuyiwa Fashanu | Penn State | rJr | 6-5 | 321 |
| 2. | Joe Alt, Jr | Notre Dame | Jr | 6-7 | 317 |
| 3. | JC Latham | Alabama | Jr | 6-6 | 335 |
| 4. | Jordan Morgan | Arizona | rSr | 6-5 | 320 |
| 5. | Zion Nelson | Miami | rSr | 6-5 | 316 |
| 6. | Blake Fisher | Notre Dame | rSo | 6-6 | 327 |
| 7. | Amariuus Mims | Georgia | Jr | 6-6 | 330 |
| 8. | Tommy Brockermeyer | Texas Christian | rSo | 6-5 | 304 |
| 9. | Reuben Fatheree II | Texas A&M | Jr | 6-7 | 325 |
| 10. | Tyler Guyton | Oklahoma | rJr | 6-6 | 320 |
| 11. | Nolan Rucci | Wisconsin | rSo | 6-7 | 297 |
| 12. | Javon Foster | Missouri | rSr | 6-5 | 319 |
| 13. | Kingsley Suamataia | BYU | rSo | 6-5 | 325 |
| 14. | Anthony Belton | North Carolina State | rJr | 6-5 | 330 |
| 15. | Walker Parks | Clemson | Sr | 6-5 | 315 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16. | Walter Rouse | Oklahoma | rSr | 6-5 | 318 |
| 17. | Jonah Monheim | Southern Cal | rJr | 6-5 | 295 |
| 18. | Garrett Greenfield | South Dakota State | rSr | 6-6 | 295 |
| 19. | Cameron Wire | Tulane | rSr | 6-6 | 305 |
| 20. | Christian Duffie | Kansas State | Sr | 6-5 | 310 |

## GUARDS

One of the better offensive linemen in the Class of 2024 is Cooper Beebe, who enters his redshirt senior season with a demonstrated track record of highly effective play over multiple seasons. He is the rare guard who makes a significantly positive impact in the passing game, and any quarterback would love to see his team pick up Beebe in the draft. Otherwise, this guard class leaves a bit to be desired. Some players, like Christian Mahogany, will need to come back from injury. Others, like Donovan Jackson and Tate Ratledge, need to round out their games by becoming more complete blockers. One prospect who could end up rising over the course of the season is Jack Nelson, who has been playing left tackle for the Badgers and could end up at either guard or tackle in the pros. He is a taller player, but he fires out with a low center of gravity. Javion Cohen is also an underrated player, and he will benefit from having an offensive line-loving head coach in Mario Cristobal mentoring him this season.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Xavier Truss | Georgia | rSr | 6-6 | 320 |
| 2. | Donovan Jackson | Ohio State | Jr | 6-4 | 300 |
| 3. | Layden Robinson | Texas A&M | rSr | 6-3 | 330 |
| 4. | Cooper Beebe | Kansas State | rSr | 6-3 | 322 |
| 5. | Connor Colby | Iowa | Jr | 6-5 | 308 |
| 6. | Tate Ratledge | Georgia | rJr | 6-5 | 315 |
| 7. | Gottlieb Ayedze | Maryland | rSr | 6-4 | 309 |
| 8. | Jack Nelson | Wisconsin | rJr | 6-6 | 310 |
| 9. | Kingsley Suamataia | Brigham Young | rSo | 6-5 | 325 |
| 10. | Javion Cohen | Miami | Sr | 6-4 | 305 |
| 11. | KT Leveston | Kansas State | rSr | 6-5 | 320 |
| 12. | Matthew Jones | Ohio State | rSr | 6-3 | 315 |
| 13. | Marcus Tate | Clemson | Jr | 6-5 | 325 |
| 14. | Christian Mahogany | Boston College | rSr | 6-3 | 335 |
| 15. | LaDarius Henderson | Michigan | rSr | 6-4 | 310 |
| 16. | Beaux Limmer | Arkansas | rSr | 6-5 | 302 |
| 17. | Graham Barton | Duke | Sr | 6-5 | 311 |
| 18. | Zach Frazier | West Virginia | rJr | 6-2 | 306 |
| 19. | JD Duplain | Michigan State | rSr | 6-3 | 300 |
| 20. | Kyle Hergel | Boston College | rSr | 6-2 | 305 |

## CENTERS

One of the best returning players on the Georgia roster, Sedrick Van Pran, is ready to take a big step forward in his game and put himself in the late first-round conversation. He and Andrew Raym likely go into the 2023 season as two of the top three at the center position — Van Pran has the edge as a pass-blocker, while Raym slightly edges Van Pran in the run game. Seth McLaughlin could end up eclipsing both of those players; he quietly took over the starting center role for Alabama in the middle of the season and frequently steamrolled defenders for Nick Saban's rushing attack. McLaughlin will compete against Darrian Dalcourt, who beat out McLaughlin for the job in 2022 but missed time due to injuries. A good problem for Alabama: Both players are NFL-caliber. Will Putnam hopes to have the opportunity to compete in big games this season, and he has the size and athletic profile to justify watching closely in 2023 as a potential pro prospect.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Sedrick Van Pran | Georgia | rJr | 6-3 | 310 |
| 2. | Bryce Foster | Texas A&M | Jr | 6-4 | 325 |
| 3. | Andrew Raym | Oklahoma | Sr | 6-3 | 305 |
| 4. | Drake Nugent | Michigan | rSr | 6-1 | 300 |
| 5. | Dylan McMahon | North Carolina State | rSr | 6-3 | 305 |
| 6. | Seth McLaughlin | Alabama | Sr | 6-3 | 301 |
| 7. | Jake Renfro | Wisconsin | rJr | 6-3 | 308 |
| 8. | Michael Jurgens | Wake Forest | rSr | 6-4 | 296 |
| 9. | Will Putnam | Clemson | rSr | 6-4 | 315 |
| 10. | Darrian Dalcourt | Alabama | rSr | 6-3 | 310 |

## DEFENSIVE TACKLES

The Class of 2024 for defensive tackles is not totally settled at the top. Maason Smith is a physically imposing, powerful lineman who is violent at the point of attack. He was otherworldly as a freshman in 2021, but he missed almost all of 2022 with an injury. A return to form would put him comfortably in the first-round conversation. A pair of teammates, Ruke Orhorhoro and Tyler Davis, will have a chance to shine on a Tigers team that hopes to compete for the College Football Playoffs. Orhorhoro is a shifty, quick tackle who can also take a powerful set in the run game. Davis is a prolific run defender who will work to round out his game. Do not be surprised to see Jer'Zhan Newton in the first round in 2024; he was consistently dominant for a terrific Illinois defense in 2022. His high motor, dizzying array of moves, and dogged pursuit of quarterbacks make him a potential top prospect. Also, T'Vondre Sweat is a massive two-gapper who projects as a solid 3-4 nose tackle, a position in decently high demand at the next level.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Maason Smith | Louisiana State | rSo | 6-6 | 310 |
| 2. | Ruke Orhorhoro | Clemson | rSr | 6-4 | 295 |
| 3. | Leonard Taylor III | Miami | Jr | 6-3 | 305 |
| 4. | Damon Payne Jr | Alabama | rSo | 6-3 | 303 |
| 5. | Shemar Turner | Texas A&M | Jr | 6-3 | 300 |
| 6. | Michael Hall Jr. | Ohio State | rSo | 6-2 | 290 |
| 7. | Tyler Davis | Clemson | Sr | 6-2 | 300 |
| 8. | Brandon Dorlus | Oregon | rSr | 6-2 | 290 |
| 9. | Tyleik Williams | Ohio State | Jr | 6-3 | 318 |
| 10. | Tre Williams | Clemson | rJr | 6-2 | 300 |
| 11. | Derrick Harmon | Michigan State | rSo | 6-4 | 320 |
| 12. | Fabien Lovett | Florida State | rSr | 6-4 | 328 |
| 13. | Gabe Hall | Baylor | rSr | 6-5 | 296 |
| 14. | T'Vondre Sweat | Texas | Sr | 6-4 | 340 |
| 15. | Jer'Zhan Newton | Illinois | rJr | 6-2 | 295 |
| 16. | Mekhi Wingo | Louisiana State | Jr | 6-0 | 295 |
| 17. | Paris Shand | Louisiana State | rJr | 6-4 | 290 |
| 18. | Darius Robinson | Missouri | rSr | 6-5 | 296 |
| 19. | Sean Martin | West Virginia | rJr | 6-4 | 279 |
| 20. | Davin Van | North Carolina State | rJr | 6-1 | 295 |

## EDGE RUSHERS

Although the Edge rushers in the Class of 2024 may not measure up to the group in the Class of 2023, the 2024 draft will feature some superstars. Jared Verse surprised some when he decided to return to school for another year, and he will push to be the first edge taken in 2024. He was a productive pass rusher last year who knows how to get after the quarterback. Dallas Turner is an athletically gifted defender who could also become an early first-round pick; he is more of a stand-up rush linebacker. A popular first-round projection at this point is Bralen Trice, who has a terrific speed move and looks like he is shot out of a cannon in third-down situations. One possible sleeper is Aaron Lewis, who is a lethal pass-rushing specialist and could see his draft stock rise if he pairs his great ability with numbers that reflect his prowess. NFL scouts will have their eyes on Columbus for a few other budding stars: Jack Sawyer and JT Tuimoloau play very different types of games, but both are possible first-rounders. Sawyer has great range and can play in space, while Tuimoloau is tough to move along the defensive line.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Dallas Turner | Alabama | Jr | 6-3 | 242 |
| 2. | Jared Verse | Florida State | rJr | 6-3 | 253 |
| 3. | JT Tuimoloau | Ohio State | Jr | 6-4 | 270 |
| 4. | Jack Sawyer | Ohio State | Jr | 6-4 | 267 |
| 5. | Chop Robinson | Penn State | Jr | 6-3 | 253 |
| 6. | Adisa Isaac | Penn State | rSr | 6-4 | 249 |
| 7. | Princely Umanmielen | Florida | Sr | 6-4 | 245 |
| 8. | Bralen Trice | Washington | rJr | 6-3 | 269 |
| 9. | Koorey Foreman | Southern Cal | Jr | 6-4 | 235 |
| 10. | Eric Gentry | Southern Cal | Jr | 6-5 | 205 |
| 11. | Darian Varner | Wisconsin | rJr | 6-2 | 260 |
| 12. | Cedric Johnson | Mississippi | Sr | 6-3 | 265 |
| 13. | Saivion Jones | Louisiana State | So | 6-6 | 250 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14. Barryn Sorrell | Texas | Jr | 6-4 | 258 |
| 15. Aaron Lewis | Rutgers | rJr | 6-4 | 250 |
| 16. Chico Bennett Jr | Virginia | rSr | 6-3 | 252 |
| 17. Jordan Burch | Oregon | Sr | 6-5 | 275 |
| 18. Tyler Baron | Tennessee | Sr | 6-4 | 260 |
| 19. Josaiah Stewart | Michigan | Jr | 6-1 | 230 |
| 20. Brennan Jackson | Washington State | rSr | 6-4 | 263 |

## LINEBACKERS

With Clemson losing some of its best defenders to the 2023 draft, the biggest question mark is the extent to which Jeremiah Trotter Jr. can establish himself as capable of leading a defense. Trotter is a sideline-to-sideline 'backer who has stellar tackling technique, but he is a bit undersized. He will have help from Barrett Carter — a complete player who is also somewhat smaller than the average linebacker. The best linebacker in the class might actually end up being Tommy Eichenberg, a prototypical inside 'backer who has a rare, instinctive feel for the position. Jackson Sirmon, a tackling machine, decided to return to school for one more year, and he will look to rack up another 100 tackles for an underrated Cal defense. Smael Mondon Jr. may need to add some weight, but he is a remarkable athlete whose inclusion in the top group of prospects demonstrates just how well Georgia is reloading its talent at this point. Finally, Jason Henderson of Old Dominion will hope to be the highest draft pick out of his school since the New York Giants took Oshane Ximines in the third round in 2019; Henderson is a menace in the run game and accumulated an insane 186 tackles in 2022.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Jeremiah Trotter Jr. | Clemson | Jr | 6-0 | 230 |
| 2. Jamon Dumas-Johnson | Georgia | Jr | 6-1 | 245 |
| 3. Tommy Eichenberg | Ohio State | rSr | 6-2 | 239 |
| 4. Smael Mondon Jr. | Georgia | Jr | 6-3 | 220 |
| 5. Danny Stutsman | Oklahoma | Jr | 6-3 | 240 |
| 6. Jackson Mitchell | Connecticut | Sr | 6-2 | 227 |
| 7. Junior Colson | Michigan | Jr | 6-2 | 235 |
| 8. Shane Lee | Southern Cal | Sr | 6-0 | 245 |
| 9. Darius Muasau | UCLA | rSr | 6-1 | 230 |
| 10. Nick Jackson | Iowa | rSr | 6-1 | 234 |
| 11. Ben Bywater | Brigham Young | rJr | 6-2 | 230 |
| 12. Jackson Sirmon | California | rSr | 6-2 | 240 |
| 13. Jestin Jacobs | Oregon | rSr | 6-3 | 238 |
| 14. Jack Kiser | Notre Dame | rSr | 6-2 | 223 |
| 15. Barrett Carter | Clemson | Jr | 6-1 | 225 |
| 16. Xavian Sorey | Georgia | rSo | 6-3 | 214 |
| 17. Justin Flowe | Arizona | rSo | 6-1 | 220 |
| 18. Omar Speights | Louisiana State | rSr | 6-1 | 233 |
| 19. Cody Simon | Ohio State | Sr | 6-1 | 239 |
| 20. Jason Henderson | Old Dominion | Jr | 6-1 | 225 |

## CORNERBACKS

In addition to having potentially the best name in the class, Kool-Aid McKinstry is probably the best cornerback in the Class of 2024. He can run with just about any receiver, but he is also refreshingly physical with receivers and he does a nice job affecting throw windows. Tony Grimes was once a highly touted prospect and a reset for him at a new school could propel this speedy corner to the top of draft boards. Although Kalen King is not as big as the typical corner in the NFL, he has elite body control and blankets receivers in man coverage. Caelen Carson is a bigger defensive back who could end up moving to safety — he takes great angles to the ball and breaks quickly to the spot. Meanwhile, Denzel Burke and Max Melton each play slightly different styles of football (Burke is a bully in man coverage who beats up receivers, while Melton is an agile corner who can mirror wideouts), but both are plausible 2024 first-rounders going into the season alongside Kamari Lassiter.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Kool-Aid McKinstry | Alabama | Jr | 6-1 | 195 |
| 2. Kamari Lassiter | Georgia | Jr | 6-0 | 180 |
| 3. Max Melton | Rutgers | rJr | 5-11 | 190 |
| 4. Kalen King | Penn State | Jr | 5-11 | 188 |
| 5. Denzel Burke | Ohio State | Jr | 6-1 | 190 |
| 6. Terrion Arnold | Alabama | rSo | 6-0 | 196 |
| 7. Tony Grimes | Texas A&M | Sr | 6-0 | 195 |
| 8. Caelen Carson | Wake Forest | rJr | 6-0 | 195 |
| 9. Cooper DeJean | Iowa | Jr | 6-1 | 209 |
| 10. Tyreek Chappell | Texas A&M | Jr | 5-10 | 185 |
| 11. Keionte Scott | Auburn | rJr | 6-0 | 185 |
| 12. Javon Bullard | Georgia | Jr | 5-11 | 180 |
| 13. Fentrell Cypress II | Virginia | rJr | 5-11 | 182 |
| 14. Ennis Rakestraw Jr. | Missouri | rJr | 6-0 | 176 |
| 15. Jason Marshall Jr | Florida | Jr | 6-0 | 198 |
| 16. Darian Chestnut | Louisiana State | Jr | 6-0 | 198 |
| 17. Kris Abrams-Draine | Missouri | Sr | 5-11 | 178 |
| 18. Jeremiah Walker | Stephen F. Austin | Sr | 6-0 | 190 |
| 19. Khordae Sydnor | Purdue | Jr | 6-3 | 265 |
| 20. Tahveon Nicholson | Illinois | rJr | 5-11 | 180 |

## SAFETIES

Kamren Kinchens was a first-team All-American safety in 2022, and he could end up being a first-round pick in 2024 if he puts together another successful season. He makes up for a lack of size with a ball-hawk instinct that allows him to force turnovers regularly. His teammate, James Williams, is listed at 6-foot-4 and runs nearly as fast as any other safety in the class; if he can translate his athletic talent into stellar play, he will not have to wait very long to hear his name called. A few superstar safeties return for another season: Lathan Ransom, Malachi Moore, Jalen Catalon and Kenny Logan Sr. All of the four will benefit from putting another year of film on tape. For Ransom, he has been somewhat inconsistent, but when he puts it all together in pass coverage, he is one of the best safeties in the nation. Also, one of the most underrated players in the class is Jay Stanley; he is the uncommon box safety with the ability to terrorize quarterbacks in pass coverage.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Lathan Ransom | Ohio State | Sr | 6-0 | 207 |
| 2. Kamren Kinchens | Miami | Jr | 5-10 | 202 |
| 3. Andrew Mukuba | Clemson | Jr | 6-0 | 185 |
| 4. Calen Bullock | Southern Cal | Jr | 6-2 | 190 |
| 5. Malachi Moore | Alabama | Sr | 6-0 | 198 |
| 6. Cole Bishop | Utah | Jr | 6-2 | 206 |
| 7. Kenny Logan Jr. | Kansas | rSr | 5-11 | 210 |
| 8. Rod Moore | Michigan | Jr | 5-11 | 185 |
| 9. Billy Bowman | Oklahoma | Jr | 5-10 | 190 |
| 10. Jaden Hicks | Washington State | rSo | 6-2 | 209 |
| 11. Jalen Catalon | Tennessee | rSr | 5-11 | 201 |
| 12. James Williams | Miami | Jr | 6-4 | 224 |
| 13. Josh DeBerry | Texas A&M | rSr | 5-11 | 177 |
| 14. Tyler Nubin | Minnesota | Sr | 6-2 | 210 |
| 15. Cam Allen | Purdue | rSr | 6-1 | 195 |
| 16. Malik Mustapha | Wake Forest | Jr | 510 | 205 |
| 17. Tysheem Johnson | Oregon | Jr | 5-10 | 200 |
| 18. Jay Stanley | Southern Mississippi | rSr | 6-2 | 215 |
| 19. Key Lawrence | Oklahoma | Sr | 6-0 | 210 |
| 20. Marcus Fuqua | Buffalo | rSr | 6-0 | 195 |

## KICKERS

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Joshua Karty | Stanford | rJr | 6-2 | 207 |
| 2. Harrison Mevis | Missouri | Sr | 6-0 | 243 |
| 3. Will Reichard | Alabama | rSr | 6-0 | 194 |
| 4. Alex McNulty | Buffalo | rSr | 6-0 | 230 |
| 5. Kyle Sentkowski | Sacramento State | rSr | 6-0 | 200 |

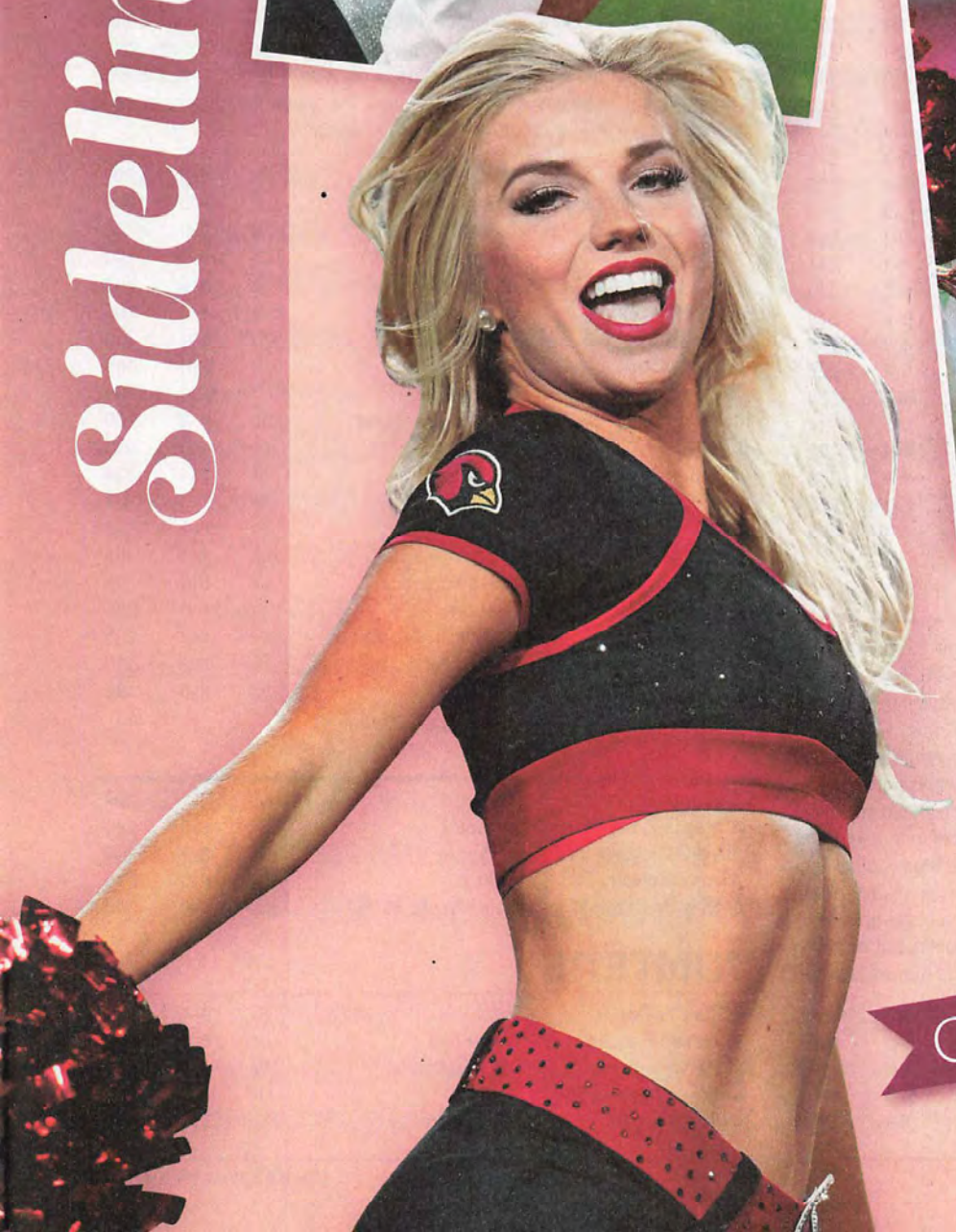
## PUNTERS

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Tory Taylor | Iowa | Sr | 6-4 | 230 |
| 2. Mason Fletcher | Cincinnati | Jr | 6-6 | 213 |
| 3. Kai Kroeger | South Carolina | Sr | 6-3 | 207 |
| 4. Jeremy Crawshaw | Florida | rJr | 6-3 | 200 |
| 5. Ben Kiernan | North Carolina | rSr | 6-0 | 215 |

# Sidelines 2023

RAIDERS

CARDINALS



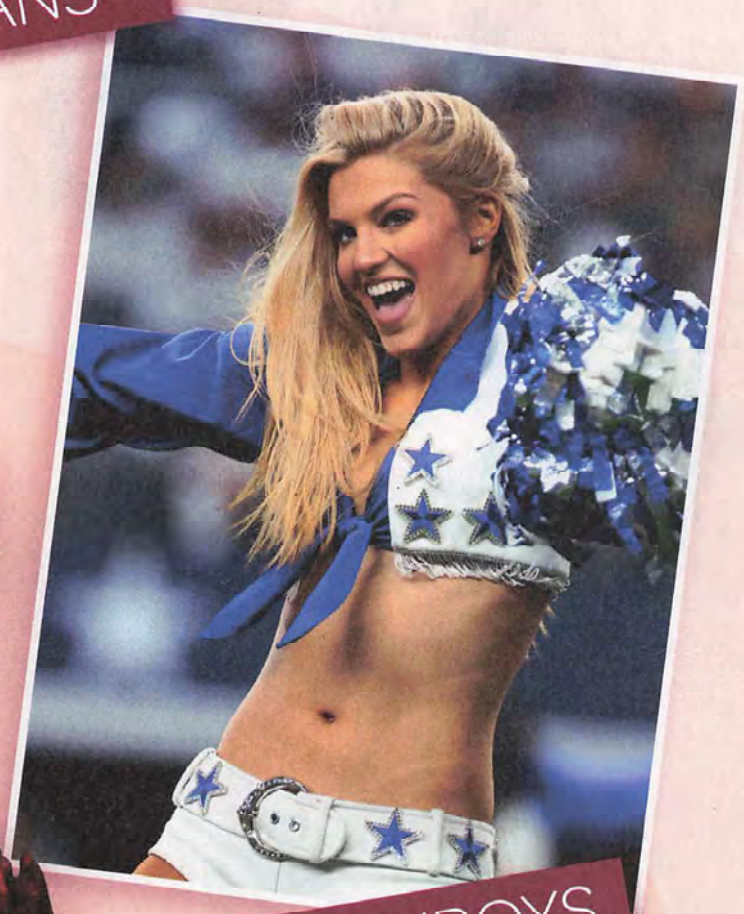
CARDINALS

COWBOYS

BRONCOS

TEXANS

TEXANS


COWBOYS

BRONCOS

JAGUARS

COWBOYS

COMMANDERS

COMMANDERS

COWBOYS

CARDINALS

# Belichick Still Looms Over Division

Like he did through 20 seasons with Tom Brady as his quarterback, Patriots head coach Bill Belichick still casts the longest shadow in this division, but in a different way.

The Patriots no longer rule the AFC East, having missed the playoffs two times in three years since the Brady-Belichick breakup. But conversation still centers around Belichick and his struggling team.

Can he make a run for a personal seventh Super Bowl championship without Brady before he retires? More to the point, can he survive as the head coach long enough to unseat Don Shula as the winningest coach in NFL history? Belichick is 31 wins from surpassing Shula's regular-season record of 328 and 19 wins from topping Shula's total record of 346 counting postseason games.

## BUFFALO BILLS

The Bills' Super Bowl hopes were crushed short of their goal for the fourth year in a row. Unlike the three previous post-season defeats, their offense failed them, scoring only 10 points in a convincing loss in the divisional round to the Bengals.

It was the first time in his last seven postseason appearances that quarterback Josh Allen failed to throw a touchdown pass. That was a sobering finale to a very challenging season for Allen and his teammates, who were emotionally drained after enduring two generational snowstorms in Western New York and then the tragic sight of Damar Hamlin's fight for life after an accidental blow to his heart in a regular-season game against the Bengals.

The Bills didn't add much to their loaded roster. They feel a return to normalcy this season will reinvigorate them as a bonafide AFC championship contender.

Draft B+

## MIAMI DOLPHINS

At the midpoint of last season, the Dolphins looked like they were joining the AFC field of elite teams. Then the effects of multiple concussions suffered by quarterback Tua Tagovailoa derailed Miami's season.

Tagovailoa wound up missing four games in the regular season and the team's wild-card playoff game against the Bills. First-year head coach Mike McDaniel was able to throw a scare into the Bills with No. 3 quarterback Skylar Thompson at the helm. But the Dolphins were a shadow of their explosive selves without Tagovailoa, who led the NFL with a 105.5 passer rating.

After a long offseason convalescence, Tagovailoa admitted he considered retiring but is determined to resume his career. The Dolphins' most important acquisition might have been backup quarterback Mike White, signed from the Jets in free agency.

Draft C+

## NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

The Patriots have never missed the postseason two straight years in 23 seasons of the Bill Belichick era. To assure that doesn't happen in 2023, Belichick cleaned up a mess he made last year with a bizarre assistant coaching experiment.

He returned Bill O'Brien to the offensive staff as coordinator and quarterbacks coach with the charge of deprogramming quarterback Mac Jones from a year of dysfunction under a two-coach system that failed miserably.

O'Brien's return enabled Belichick to concentrate on upgrading the Patriots' defense. He did so by using his top three draft picks there, including Oregon cornerback Christian Gonzalez and Georgia Tech defensive end Keion White.

Draft B

## NEW YORK JETS

Despite six straight losses to close their season, the Jets made enough progress in Robert Saleh's second year as head coach to whet the appetite for a bold move to take the next step.

They traded a second-round pick in 2023 and a second-round pick in 2024 that can easily upgrade to a first-round pick for 39-year-old quarterback Aaron Rodgers, whose legendary career with the Green Bay Packers came to an inauspicious ending after 18 seasons. The transaction was eerily similar to the Jets trading for Rodgers' predecessor in Green Bay, Brett Favre, in 2008.

The Jets prepared for Rodgers' delayed arrival by signing free-agent receivers Allen Lazard, a former teammate of Rodgers in Green Bay, and Mecole Hardman. Then they added to their fourth-ranked defense in points and yards by selecting pass rusher Will McDonald of Iowa State.

Draft B

## STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

| | Overall | Div. | 8 Non Div. | 3 Non Div. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Buffalo | .542 | .471 | .581 | .580 |
| Miami | .554 | .560 | .581 | .471 |
| New England | .549 | .580 | .581 | .402 |
| N.Y. Jets | .545 | .600 | .581 | .343 |

8 Non-Div. are games vs. two common divisions; 3 Non-Div. are games vs. teams with same place in standings.

## 5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

**1. Is the Bills' Super Bowl window closing?**

Sure it is. Nothing lasts forever. But after compiling a 47-18 record in the last four regular seasons and winning three straight division titles, their run is still on.

**2. Can the Dolphins count on Tua Tagovailoa?**

They picked up his fifth-year option for $23.17 million in 2024. Coupled with his 2023 salary of $9.63 million, it means the Dolphins are on the hook with Tua for a fully guaranteed $32.8 million over the next two seasons. They're counting on him, yes.

**3. Will Bill Belichick win a Super Bowl without Tom Brady?**

Belichick, 71, is seven months younger than the league's oldest coach, Pete Carroll of Seattle. Age isn't a factor in his pursuit of a seventh Super Bowl title. Lifting quarterback Mac Jones to Super Bowl level is what stands in his way. The odds are against it.

**4. Did the Jets do the right thing in trading for Aaron Rodgers?**

Yes. Why not? They weren't going anywhere with 2021 draft bust Zach Wilson. It was a bold move worth taking.

**5. Which new player in the division will have the biggest impact?**

Without a doubt, it's Dolphins cornerback Jalen Ramsey. The Dolphins acquired the three-time All-Pro and six-time Pro Bowler from the Rams for a third-round pick and tight end Hunter Long.

— Tony Grossi

# BUFFALO BILLS

## Still Searching for Championship Pedigree

For the bulk of the 2022 season, the Bills were considered the odds-on favorite to not only represent the AFC in Super Bowl LVII, but to win it.

But while they captured their third consecutive AFC East division title, their Super Bowl dreams fizzled as the team started to leak oil late in the regular season and then was drummed out of the playoffs in a lopsided home loss in the divisional round by the Bengals.

"We've done a lot of good things (and) you have to be playing your best football at this time of year," general manager Brandon Beane said after that loss. "This year, we weren't when we hit the playoffs; we weren't in a groove the way we were in 2020 and 2021 (entering the playoffs). It wasn't always the offense; it wasn't always the defense. Unfortunately, we were not playing our best football at the end."

It felt like a golden opportunity was lost for the Bills because now, they may not even be the best team in the AFC East, let alone the AFC. As long as quarterback Josh Allen stays healthy the offense will be prolific, but the defense — despite its gaudy regular-season statistics — has been terrible in four straight season-ending playoff losses dating back to 2019.

"I'm a big believer in you are who you are in the last game of the season that you showed on the field. That's what we have to address," head coach Sean McDermott said.

**Josh Allen**
Photo by Joe Robbins

**T1**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 14-4

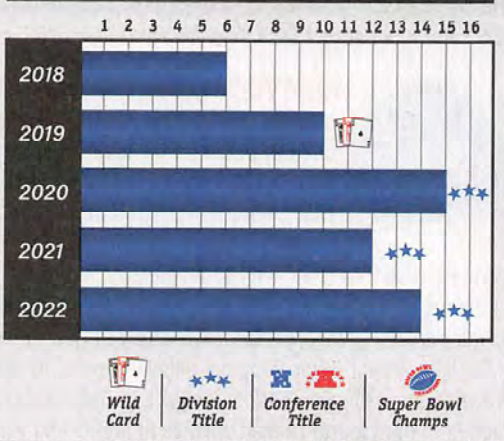
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 4-2

**STADIUM:** Highmark Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 71,621

**SURFACE:** A-Turf Titan

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

ONE BILLS DRIVE
ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. 14127
(716) 648-1800
WWW.BUFFALOBILLS.COM

**TRAINING CAMP:** St. John Fisher College; Rochester, NY
**HEAD COACH:** Sean McDermott
- 7th season as Bills/NFL head coach
- 66-40 overall; 4-5 postseason

**OWNER/CEO:** Terry Pegula
**OWNER/PRESIDENT:** Kim Pegula
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Brandon Beane
**ASSISTANT GM:** Jim Overdorf
**DIR. PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Terrance Gray
**SR. DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:** Malik Boyd

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ken Dorsey | Offensive coordinator | 10 | 5 |
| Mike Shula | Sr. offensive assistant | 32 | 2 |
| Joe Brady | Quarterbacks | 6 | 2 |
| Marc Lubick | %Asst. quarterback | 15 | 7 |
| Aaron Kromer | Offensive line | 22 | 2 |
| Kelly Skipper | Running backs | 17 | 7 |
| Adam Henry | Receivers | 13 | 1 |
| Rob Boras | Tight ends | 20 | 7 |
| Austin Gund | Off. Asst./off. Line | 2 | 2 |
| Kyle Shurmur | Off. quality control | 2 | 2 |
| Al Holcomb | Sr. defensive assistant | 15 | 1 |
| Eric Washington | Sr. def asst./def. line | 16 | 4 |
| Marcus West | Assistant line | 2 | 2 |
| Bobby Babich | Linebackers | 12 | 7 |
| John Butler | @Defensive backs | 10 | 6 |
| Joe Danna | Safeties | 16 | 1 |
| Jaylon Finner | Def. quality control | 2 | 2 |
| Matthew Smiley | Special teams coord. | 11 | 7 |
| Cory Harkey | Asst. special teams | 2 | 2 |
| Eric Ciano | Head S&C | 14 | 14 |
| Hal Luther | Assistant S&C | 11 | 11 |
| Will Greenberg | Assistant S&C | 7 | 7 |
| Jason Oszvart | S&C assistant | 11 | 9 |
| Nick Lacy | S&C assistant | 2 | 2 |

% Game management @ Pass game coordinator

## BILLS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/23 | Kaiir Elam | CB | Backup |
| 2021 | 1/30 | Greg Rousseau | DE | Starter |
| 2020 | 2/54 | A.J. Epenesa | DE | Backup |
| 2019 | 1/9 | Ed Oliver | DT | Starter |
| 2018 | 1/7 | Josh Allen | QB | Starter |

## COACHING

In a somewhat shocking development, defensive coordinator Leslie Frazier — who had been in that role since McDermott came to Buffalo in 2017 — decided he wanted to step away from coaching in 2023, leaving the door open for a possible return in 2024.

In his stead, McDermott is going back to his roots and will call the plays for the defense as he once did for the Eagles and Panthers. He said he's excited for the challenge, but it remains to be seen how it will work given the other responsibilities he must retain as the head coach.

Ken Dorsey is back as offensive coordinator, and though the numbers reflected a very good 2022 season, there were clearly problems at the end of the year that need to be addressed.

**RATING 7.5**

## QUARTERBACKS

Josh Allen is, without question, one of the top five quarterbacks in the NFL, and he had another outstanding season in 2022 as he topped 4,000 yards passing for the third straight year, rushed for more than 700 yards for a second consecutive year, and produced 42 touchdowns.

However, he'll be the first one to admit that statistics don't matter to him, except one: Turnovers, and that one was particularly bothersome as Allen threw 14 interceptions and lost six fumbles including a disastrous one that cost the Bills a game in the final seconds against Minnesota, one they ultimately lost in overtime. He also had a sack/fumble for a touchdown in the playoff victory over Miami.

Allen can do magnificent things, but one of his key goals in 2023 will be to protect the ball much better than he has the previous two seasons.

**RATING: 9**

## RUNNING BACKS

James Cook was in a timeshare with Devin Singletary throughout 2022, but his snap counts rose significantly as the season wore on until ultimately, he was out-snapping Singletary late in the year. With Singletary gone, Cook has an opportunity to prove that he can be the full-time back.

However, Cook doesn't seem built to carry the full load, which is why the Bills signed veterans Damien Harris and Latavius Murray in free agency, and re-worked the contract of Nyheim Hines to lower his cap number and make him an affordable retention.

Cook will likely be the starter, but even with increased snaps as a rookie, he played

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

One area the Bills will seek improvement is consistency from their complementary playmakers to Stefon Diggs. In the slot, **Khalil Shakir** provided flashes of becoming a big time seam weapon, especially as the season wore on. In fact, QB Josh Allen seemed to go his direction more frequently come playoff time, connecting on five catches for 91 yards in two games. His speed can be an added dimension to the offense they sorely need. ... Another second-year player who is expected to see his role increase is pass-catching TE **Quintin Morris**, who is capable of picking up yards after the catch due to his quickness. He can be a dangerous target when lined up in 12 personnel, along with Dawson Knox and should feel a bit more comfortable with the playbook. ... On defense, Buffalo needs CB **Kaiir Elam** to recover from his mental and injury woes that troubled him as a rookie, in order to play like the first-round pick they traded up to acquire. He was benched at times in favor of undrafted free agent Christian Benford. This will be a reset of sorts for Elam, who heads into camp healthy and is expected to nail down one of the starting jobs.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

**GABE DAVIS**

After his explosive performance in the Bills' 2021 playoff loss to Kansas City when he scored a postseason record four touchdowns, expectations soared for Davis in 2022, but he did not meet them.

He had a solid year and set career highs for catches (48) and yards (836), but he also dropped 11.1 percent of his targets. Davis was hampered by an ankle injury early in the season and never really found his stride as his inconsistency and his woefully low 30.3-percent success rate on contested catches detracted from his performance.

Heading into the final year of his rookie contract, Davis will be under pressure to produce if he hopes to re-sign with the Bills, or have a free-agent market in 2024.

# BILLS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Davis, Gabriel | 6-2 | 225 | 4 | Central Florida | 15/15/0/1 | D4 20 | D4 BUFF 20 | Needs to step up in his contract year and be a more reliable target. |
| 14 | Diggs, Stefon | 6-0 | 191 | 9 | Maryland | 16/16 | T,MINN 20 | D5 MINN 15 | Is the first Bills receiver in history with three straight 100-catch seasons. |
| 11 | *Harty, Deonte (RS) | 5-6 | 170 | 5 | Assumption | 4/0/0/1 | UFA,NORL 23 | CFA NORL 19 | Could become a Swiss Army knife type of player given his skill set. |
| 86 | Kincaid, Dalton (TE) | 6-3 | 246 | R | Utah | 0/0 | D1 23 | D1 BUFF 23 | First-round pick is a tight end who could be the slot receiver. |
| 88 | Knox, Dawson (TE) | 6-4 | 254 | 5 | Mississippi | 15/15/0/1 | D3 19 | D3 BUFF 19 | New, expensive contract kicks in; production needs to rise, too. |
| 85 | Morris, Quintin (TE) | 6-2 | 252 | 2 | Bowling Green | 14/1/0/2 | FA 22 | CFA BUFF 21 | Played only 26 percent of snaps in 2022; will have to fight to make team. |
| 10 | Shakir, Khalil | 6-0 | 190 | 2 | Boise State | 14/2/0/2 | D5 22 | D5 BUFF 22 | Fifth-round pick in 2022 who showed flashes in limited snaps. |
| 16 | Sherfield, Trent | 6-1 | 206 | 6 | Vanderbilt | 17/4 | UFA,MIA 23 | CFA ARIZ 18 | Free-agent acquisition will probably be the No. 5 receiver. |
| 18 | Shorter, Justin | 6-4 | 229 | R | Florida | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 BUFF 23 | Fifth-round pick adds size to the group, but not much else. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 71 | Bates, Ryan (C) | 6-4 | 302 | 5 | Penn State | 15/15/0/1 | T,PHA 19 | CFA PHA 19 | Bills matched a restricted free-agent offset sheet to retain him in 2022. |
| 65 | Boettger, Ike (G) | 6-6 | 313 | 5 | Iowa | 1/0/0/1 | W,KC 18 | CFA BUFF 18 | Missed end of 2021 and most of 2022 with a torn Achilles. |
| 67 | Broeker, Nick (G) | 6-4 | 305 | R | Mississippi | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 BUFF 23 | Seventh-round pick will have a chance for the practice squad. |
| 79 | Brown, Spencer (RT) | 6-8 | 311 | 3 | Northern Iowa | 14/14/0/2 | D3 21 | D3 BUFF 21 | Offseason back surgery after 2021 limited his effectiveness. |
| 73 | Dawkins, Dion (LT) | 6-5 | 320 | 7 | Temple | 15/15/0/1 | D2 17 | D2 BUFF 17 | Pro-Bowl level player who had a slight dip in performance in 2022. |
| 72 | *Doyle, Tommy (T) | 6-8 | 320 | 3 | Miami, Ohio | 1/0/0/2 | D5 21 | D5 BUFF 21 | Swing tackle played in only one game due to a knee injury. |
| | *Edwards, David (G) | 6-6 | 308 | 5 | Wisconsin | 4/4/0/1 | UFA,LAR 23 | D5 LAR 19 | Free agent signed from the Rams who will compete for left-guard spot. |
| 62 | Mancz, Greg (C) | 6-4 | 302 | 8 | Toledo | 3/0/4/0 | FA 23 | CFA HOUS 15 | Signed in the 2022 offseason, but spent most of the year on the practice squad. |
| 66 | McGovern, Connor (LG) | 6-5 | 318 | 5 | Penn State | 15/15/0/2 | UFA,DALL 23 | D3 DALL 19 | Is the Bills' biggest-money free agent; will compete at left guard. |
| 60 | Morse, Mitch (C) | 6-6 | 305 | 9 | Missouri | 13/13/0/3 | UFA,KC 19 | D2 KC 15 | Solid, reliable starter heading into his fifth season with the Bills. |
| 77 | Quessenberry, David (T/G) | 6-5 | 310 | 5 | San Jose State | 16/3 | FA 22 | D6 HOUS 13 | Journeyman was a backup last season; re-signed in offseason. |
| 64 | Torrence, O'Cyrus (RG) | 6-5 | 330 | R | Florida | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 BUFF 23 | Second-round pick has a great chance to start at right guard. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Cook, James | 5-11 | 190 | 2 | Georgia | 16/0 | D2 22 | D2 BUFF 22 | The 2022 second-round pick will get chance to be the starting running back. |
| 41 | Gilliam, Reggie (FB) | 6-0 | 244 | 4 | Toledo | 15/4/0/1 | CFA 20 | CFA BUFF 20 | Sees snaps as a fullback and tight end and is a core special teamer. |
| 22 | Harris, Damien | 5-11 | 213 | 5 | Alabama | 11/9/0/6 | UFA,NE 23 | D3 NE 19 | Free agent from Patriots who has three career 100-yard games against the Bills. |
| 0 | Hines, Nyheim (RS) | 5-9 | 196 | 6 | North Carolina State | 16/5/0/1 | T,IND 22 | D4 IND 18 | Acquired in a trade last season; will be the primary return man. |
| 28 | Murray, Latavius | 6-3 | 230 | 11 | Central Florida | 13/7/0/1 | UFA,DEN 23 | D6 OAK 13 | May give the Bills an option as a bigger back in short-yardage situations. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | Allen, Josh | 6-5 | 237 | 6 | Wyoming | 16/16 | D1 18 | D1 BUFF 18 | Had another terrific season, but he needs to tone down his turnovers. |
| 9 | Allen, Kyle | 6-3 | 210 | 5 | Houston | 2/2/8/7 | UFA,HOUS 23 | CFA CARO 18 | Free agent was signed as the backup to replace Case Keenum. |
| 5 | Barkley, Matt | 6-2 | 234 | 9 | Southern Cal | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D4 PHA 13 | Will be the practice-squad quarterback once again. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 51 | Ankou, Eli (T) | 6-3 | 325 | 6 | UCLA | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA HOUS 17 | Was on the practice squad and did not play in 2022. |
| 55 | Basham, Boogie (E) | 6-3 | 274 | 3 | Wake Forest | 15/0/0/1 | D2 21 | D2 BUFF 21 | Second-round pick in 2021 has been underwhelming thus far. |
| 96 | Bryant, Brandin (T) | 6-4 | 310 | 2 | Florida Atlantic | 4/0/0/2 | FA 23 | CFA SEA 16 | Saw action in four games as a rotational defensive tackle. |
| 57 | Epenesa, A.J. (E) | 6-6 | 260 | 4 | Iowa | 15/2/0/1 | D2 20 | D2 BUFF 20 | Second-round pick in 2020 played a career-high 38 percent of snaps in 2022. |
| 98 | Ford, Poona (T) | 5-11 | 310 | 6 | Texas | 17/16 | FA 23 | CFA SEA 18 | A late free-agent signing who could compete for a rotational role. |
| 92 | Jones, DaQuan (T) | 6-4 | 320 | 10 | Penn State | 16/16 | UFA,CARO 22 | D4 TENN 14 | Excellent free-agent signing in 2022 who solidified run defense. |
| 90 | Lawson, Shaq (E) | 6-3 | 265 | 8 | Clemson | 15/6/0/1 | FA 22 | D1 BUFF 16 | Signed a one-year free agent contract for the second straight season. |
| 40 | *Miller, Von (E) | 6-3 | 250 | 13 | Texas A&M | 11/11/0/0 | UFA,LAR 22 | D1 DEN 11 | Will start the season on the physically unable to perform list. |
| 91 | Oliver, Ed (T) | 6-1 | 287 | 5 | Houston | 13/13/0/3 | D1 19 | D1 BUFF 19 | Heads into his fifth-year option year needing to have a better season. |
| 97 | Phillips, Jordan (T) | 6-6 | 341 | 9 | Oklahoma | 12/1/0/4 | FA 22 | D2 MIA 15 | Suffered a shoulder injury late; re-signed with Bills in offseason. |
| 50 | Rousseau, Greg (E) | 6-6 | 266 | 3 | Miami | 13/13/0/3 | D1 21 | D1 BUFF 21 | With Von Miller out, is the Bills No. 1 edge rusher. |
| 99 | Settle, Tim (T) | 6-3 | 313 | 6 | Virginia Tech | 15/2/0/1 | UFA,WSH 22 | D5 WSH 18 | Underwhelming first season with the Bills as a rotation tackle. |
| 93 | Vickers, Kendal (T) | 6-3 | 295 | 4 | Tennessee | 8/0/0/4 | FA 23 | CFA PITT 18 | Joined the Bills from the Raiders and was on the practice squad. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 43 | Bernard, Terrel (O) | 6-1 | 224 | 2 | Baylor | 16/1 | D3 22 | D3 BUFF 22 | A 2022 third-round pick will contend for Tremaine Edmunds' vacated job. |
| 53 | Dodson, Tyrel (M) | 6-0 | 237 | 4 | Texas A&M | 16/3 | FA 20 | CFA BUFF 19 | Has been a special-teams player who will compete for job in middle. |
| 52 | Klein, A.J. (M) | 6-1 | 240 | 11 | Iowa State | 10/2/0/3 | UFA,PITT 20 | D5 CARO 13 | Veteran rejoined Bills midway through 2022 and re-signed in offseason. |
| 44 | Matakevich, Tyler (M) | 6-1 | 235 | 8 | Temple | 16/0 | UFA,PITT 20 | D7 PITT 16 | Key special-teams player who re-signed in the offseason. |
| 58 | Milano, Matt (O) | 6-0 | 223 | 7 | Boston College | 15/15/0/1 | D5 17 | D5 BUFF 17 | First-team All-Pro finally earned respect as one of the best LBs in the NFL. |
| 54 | Spector, Baylon (O) | 6-0 | 233 | 2 | Clemson | 6/0/0/10 | D7 22 | D7 BUFF 22 | Seventh-round pick in 2022 was only active in six games as special teamer. |
| 42 | Williams, Dorian (O) | 6-1 | 228 | R | Tulane | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 BUFF 23 | Third-round pick will likely be a special-teams contributor. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | Austin, Alex (CB) | 6-1 | 191 | R | Oregon State | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 BUFF 23 | Seventh-round pick has little chance to make the roster. |
| 47 | Benford, Christian (CB) | 6-1 | 205 | 2 | Villanova | 9/5/0/3 | D6 22 | D6 BUFF 22 | Was starting early in the season before injuries derailed his season. |
| 24 | Elam, Kaiir (CB) | 6-1 | 191 | 2 | Florida State | 13/6/0/3 | D1 22 | D1 BUFF 22 | First-round pick didn't start well, but was starting by second half. |
| 3 | *Hamlin, Damar (S) | 6-0 | 200 | 3 | Pittsburgh | 15/13/0/0 | D6 21 | D6 BUFF 21 | Has resumed his career after his cardiac arrest scare in January. |
| 23 | *Hyde, Micah (S) | 6-0 | 197 | 11 | Iowa | 2/2/0/0 | UFA,GB 17 | D5 GB 13 | Missed all but two games in 2022 due to a neck injury. |
| 30 | Jackson, Dane (CB) | 5-11 | 180 | 4 | Pittsburgh | 15/14/0/1 | FA 21 | D7 BUFF 20 | Started 14 games last year, but will be a sub-package player this season. |
| 7 | Johnson, Taron (CB) | 5-11 | 192 | 6 | Weber State | 16/15 | D4 18 | D4 BUFF 18 | Has become one of the best nickel corners in the league. |
| 39 | Lewis, Cam (CB) | 5-9 | 183 | 3 | Buffalo | 13/1/0/3 | FA 21 | CFA BUFF 19 | Mostly a practice-squad or special-teams only player for several years. |
| 36 | Mayden, Jared (S) | 6-0 | 205 | 1 | Alabama | 0/0/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA SF 20 | Training camp depth player who isn't likely to make the team. |
| 33 | Neal, Siran (CB) | 6-0 | 206 | 6 | Jacksonville State | 16/0 | D5 18 | D5 BUFF 18 | Rarely plays on defense; is one of the core special teamers. |
| 21 | Poyer, Jordan (S) | 6-0 | 191 | 10 | Oregon State | 12/12/0/4 | UFA,CLV 17 | D7 PHA 13 | In a surprise, the former All-Pro re-signed with the Bills as a free agent. |
| 20 | Rapp, Taylor (S) | 6-0 | 208 | 4 | Washington | 16/16/0/1 | UFA,LAR 23 | D2 LAR 19 | Spent four years starting with the Rams before signing as a free agent. |
| 27 | White, Tre'Davious (CB) | 5-11 | 192 | 7 | Louisiana State | 6/6/0/3 | D1 17 | D1 BUFF 17 | Didn't play until Thanksgiving due to his knee injury, but seems back to normal. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Bass, Tyler (K) | 5-10 | 183 | 4 | Georgia Southern | 16/0 | D6 20 | D6 BUFF 20 | Has already scored 405 points in three years with the Bills. |
| 69 | Ferguson, Reid (LS) | 6-2 | 235 | 7 | Louisiana State | 16/0 | FA 17 | CFA BUFF 16 | Is the team's longest-tenured player, having joining Bills in 2016. |
| 8 | Martin, Sam (P) | 6-1 | 211 | 11 | Appalachian State | 16/0 | FA 22 | D5 DET 13 | Debuted last season with the Bills and re-signed as a free agent. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent; FA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Isaiah Coulter (2, Rhode Island), KeeSean Johnson (3, Fresno State), Dezmon Patmon (3, Washington State); TE Zach Davidson (1, Central Missouri); Ts Alec Anderson (1, UCLA), Ryan Van Demark (1, Connecticut); G Kevin Jarvis (1, Michigan State); Des Kameron Cline (1, South Dakota), Kingsley Jonathan (1, Syracuse); DT Cortez Broughton (3, Cincinnati); CB Kyler McMichael (1, North Carolina); S Zayne Anderson (1, Brigham Young); DB Ja'Marcus Ingram (1, Buffalo).

Matt Milano
Photo by Joe Robbins

only 25 percent of the time. Harris will get plenty of action, and Hines will be utilized as a pass-catcher, which was the main reason the Bills traded for him last year. Murray could earn a spot as an option in short-yardage situations.

**RATING: 7**

## RECEIVERS

Stefon Diggs had another great season as he caught 108 passes for 1,429 yards and a career-high 11 touchdowns. But late in the year, the Bills weren't getting production from other players and teams did a nice job of neutralizing Diggs as he had a six-game stretch where he failed to top 92 yards.

Gabe Davis set career highs for catches and yards, but his inconsistency was an issue. Isaiah McKenzie and Jamison Crowder were supposed to give the Bills production from the slot, but McKenzie failed and Crowder didn't play after breaking his ankle in Week 4. That's why drafting tight end Dalton Kincaid in the first round is interesting because the Bills think he can become their best option in the slot while Dawson Knox would remain as the in-line tight end because he's a better blocker.

The addition of free agents Deonte Harty and Trent Sherfield will add depth, and second-year player Khalil Shakir will compete for more playing time.

**RATING: 8**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Bills knew they needed to get bigger and stronger up front so they signed 318-pound left guard Connor McGovern in free agency and

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

**KEY ADDITION:**
**G Connor McGovern**
The Bills' guard play has been weak the past several years and McGovern was signed to a free agent contract to upgrade left guard, something 2022 free-agent signee Rodger Saffold failed to do.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**
QB Kyle Allen, G David Edwards, DE Poona Ford, RB Damien Harris, WR/RS Deonte Harty, RB Latavius Murray, S Taylor Rapp, WR Trent Sherfield, DL DeShawn Williams

**KEY LOSS:**
**LB Tremaine Edmunds (13/13)***
The 2018 first-round pick was a five-year starter for the Bills and when healthy, he played every down in those five seasons. It's a massive hole in the middle of the defense the Bills need to fill.

**OTHER LOSSES:**
WR Cole Beasley (2/1), WR Jamison Crowder (4/0), T Bobby Hart (15/0), S Jaquan Johnson (16/3), RB Taiwan Jones (16/0), QB Case Keenum (2/0), WR Jake Kumerow (6/1), S Dean Marlowe (4/1), WR/RS Isaiah McKenzie (15/8), **G Rodger Saffold (16/16)**, **RB Devin Singletary (16/16)**, TE Tommy Sweeney (5/0), G Greg Van Roten (16/4)*
**Total games played/started lost: 146/63**

**STARTERS RETURNING**
19: 9 offense, 10 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS

STEFON DIGGS

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Josh Allen | 567 | 359 | 4283 | 35 | 14 |
| Case Keenum | 7 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Devin Singletary | 177 | 819 | 4.6 | 5 |
| Josh Allen | 124 | 762 | 6.2 | 7 |
| James Cook | 89 | 507 | 5.7 | 2 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stefon Diggs | 108 | 1429 | 13.2 | 11 |
| Gabe Davis | 48 | 836 | 17.4 | 7 |
| Dawson Knox | 48 | 517 | 10.8 | 6 |
| Isaiah McKenzie | 42 | 423 | 10.1 | 4 |

**Kicking:** Bass 48/50 XPs, 27/31 FGs, 129 points
**Tackles:** Edmunds 102, Milano 99, Johnson 89
**Sacks:** Rousseau 8, Miller 8, Epenesa 6.5
**INTs:** Poyer 4, Milano 3, Jackson 2, Elam 2

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 397.6 | 2 |
| Passing Offense | 258.1 | 7 |
| Rushing Offense | 139.5 | 7 |
| Points | 28.4 | 2 |
| Sacked | 33 | 8 |
| 3rd Down % | 50.3 | 1 |

| Defense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Defense | 319.1 | 6 |
| Passing Defense | 214.6 | 15 |
| Rushing Defense | 104.6 | 5 |
| Points Allowed | 17.9 | 2 |
| INTs | 17 | T-4 |
| Sacks | 40 | T-14 |
| Turnover Diff. | 0 | 15 |

drafted 330-pound O'Cyrus Torrence in the second round. McGovern will probably be locked in as a starter, and Torrence will have a great chance to unset Ryan Bates at right guard.

Center Mitch Morse remains a solid anchor in the middle, while left tackle Dion Dawkins continues to be one of the best in the game, though his play did take a dip in 2022. At right tackle, Spencer Brown heads into his third season still needing to prove he's the answer.

The depth should be improved as they also signed guard David Edwards and re-signed guard Ike Boettger and tackle David Quessenberry in free agency, and will get tackle Tommy Doyle back from a knee injury.

**RATING: 7**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Much as they did with the offensive line, the Bills are running it back with all of their primary 2022 group intact, with the exception of edge rusher Von Miller who will miss the first part of the season due to knee surgery.

They re-signed tackle Jordan Phillips even though he's still recovering from shoulder surgery and he'll be a backup along with Tim Settle behind starters Ed Oliver and DaQuan Jones. And on the edge, Greg Rousseau is the top threat while Miller is out, while Shaq Lawson, A.J. Epenesa and Boogie Basham will be part of the rotation for a group that has to provide a better pass rush.

**RATING: 7**

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Diversifying the offense. Coordinator Ken Dorsey has to find ways to take some of the burden off Josh Allen with the run game, and he needs to incorporate a two-tight end scheme to take advantage of first-round pick Dalton Kincaid's skills that also takes coverage away from Stefon Diggs.

2. Finding a defensive quarterback. Tremaine Edmunds was in that role for five years, and his departure is a big loss. The Bills need to find a suitable replacement. It will have to come from within and the possible options aren't great.

3. Stop giving the ball away. For all their offensive success, the Bills committed 27 turnovers (most of those by Allen), which were the third-most in the NFL. Only because their defense created 27 takeaways, which tied for fourth-most, were they a middle-of-the-pack net zero.

## LINEBACKERS

Losing Tremaine Edmunds has created a hole in the middle of the defense that the Bills have not yet closed in free agency or the draft. They insist that someone among Tyrel Dodson, Terrel Bernard and A.J. Klein will emerge as the starter, but all are a big step down from Edmunds.

The other spot in Buffalo's two-linebacker alignment is held down by All-Pro Matt Milano, who finally earned recognition he has deserved for the past few seasons as a do-everything playmaker. The Bills added Dorian Williams in the draft as a third-round pick, but he won't be much more than a special teamer as a rookie.

**RATING: 6.5**

## SECONDARY

Re-signing safety Jordan Poyer was a pleasant and unexpected development, and with Micah Hyde returning from his neck injury, one of the NFL's best safety tandems is reunited. Also, Taylor Rapp was signed in free agency and he'll provide some interesting options, while Damar Hamlin is trying to resume his career after his cardiac arrest.

At cornerback, Tre'Davious White is back full-time from his knee injury and 2022 first-round pick Kaiir Elam should win the other outside job, though he'll get competition from Dane Jackson and Christian Benford. At nickel corner, Taron Johnson remains one of the best in the business, not only for his coverage, but for his tackling.

**RATING: 8.5**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Tyler Bass has proven to be an outstanding 2020 sixth-round draft pick. He has already scored 405 points in three seasons and was just signed to a four-year contract extension. Long snapper Reid Ferguson is as reliable as they come and because so, he's the longest-tenured Bill, having joined the team in 2016.

Punter Sam Martin was signed after training camp in 2022 and gave the Bills a fine season so they re-signed him as a free agent. In the return game, Hines held down both the kickoff and punt duties after he was acquired in November, but the Bills may try to lessen his load with someone else, perhaps Harty.

**RATING: 8.5**

## INTANGIBLES

Head coach Sean McDermott is adding defensive coordinator to his duties. It will be interesting to see how different he calls the defense compared to departed Leslie Frazier, particularly in how much more aggressive he might be.

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Sal Maiorana

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 14-4**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 8 | at L.A. Rams | 31-10 |
| Sept. 19 | TENNESSEE | 41-7 |
| Sept. 25 | at Miami | 19-21 |
| Oct. 2 | at Baltimore | 23-20 |
| Oct. 9 | PITTSBURGH | 38-3 |
| Oct. 16 | at Kansas City | 24-20 |
| Oct. 30 | GREEN BAY | 27-17 |
| Nov. 6 | at N.Y. Jets | 17-20 |
| Nov. 13 | MINNESOTA (OT) | 30-33 |
| Nov. 20 | CLEVELAND | 31-23 |
| Nov. 24 | at Detroit | 28-25 |
| Dec. 1 | at New England | 24-10 |
| Dec. 11 | N.Y. JETS | 20-12 |
| Dec. 17 | MIAMI | 32-29 |
| Dec. 24 | at Chicago | 35-13 |
| Jan. 8 | NEW ENGLAND | 35-23 |
| Jan. 15 | MIAMI | 34-31 |
| Jan. 22 | CINCINNATI | 10-27 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Eastern**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 12 | INDIANAPOLIS (Sat) | 1:00 |
| Aug. 19 | at Pittsburgh (Sat) | 6:30 |
| Aug. 24-27 | at Chicago | TBD |
| Sept. 11 | at N.Y. Jets (Mon) | 8:15 |
| Sept. 17 | LAS VEGAS | 1:00 |
| Sept. 24 | at Washington | 1:00 |
| Oct. 1 | MIAMI | 1:00 |
| Oct. 8 | Jacksonville (London) | 9:30 |
| Oct. 15 | N.Y. GIANTS | 8:20 |
| Oct. 22 | at New England | 1:00 |
| Oct. 26 | TAMPA BAY (Thu) | 8:15 |
| Nov. 5 | at Cincinnati | 8:20 |
| Nov. 13 | DENVER (Mon) | 8:15 |
| Nov. 19 | N.Y. JETS | 4:25 |
| Nov. 26 | at Philadelphia | 4:25 |
| | BYE | |
| Dec. 10 | at Kansas City | 4:25 |
| Dec. 17 | DALLAS | 4:25 |
| Dec. 23 | at L.A. Chargers (Sat) | 8:00 |
| Dec. 31 | NEW ENGLAND | 1:00 |
| TBD | at Miami | TBD |

# MIAMI DOLPHINS

## Success Hinges on Keeping Tua Upright

The Dolphins, who last season returned to the playoffs for the first time since 2016, already had one of the fastest offenses in the NFL with wide receivers Tyreek Hill and Jaylen Waddle as well as running back Raheem Mostert.

In the offseason, they added deep-threat receiver Chosen Anderson, and they drafted Devon Achane, the fastest running back at the 2023 NFL Combine with a 4.32 time. Achane should lift the special teams as he averaged 30.7 yards on 20 career kickoff returns in college.

The Dolphins took advantage of their speed last year, ranking fifth in the NFL in air yards per passing attempt. They also ranked third in overall air yards.

Everything, though, will hinge on the health of lefty quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, who has battled concussion issues and hasn't played a full season since his sophomore year of college (2018).

Keeping Tagovailoa upright falls largely on the offensive line, particularly right tackle Austin Jackson, who will be tasked with protecting Tagovailoa's blind side.

On defense, the Dolphins have a new coordinator in Vic Fangio. In 19 seasons as an NFL defensive coordinator, Fangio has had eight top-10 defenses in terms of fewest points allowed. In fact, he has accomplished that feat with four different teams, showing that his coaching skills are transferrable to different franchises.

At Miami, he inherits a defense that ranked 24th in the NFL in points allowed (23.5). Miami was 27th against the pass (234.8 yards), but fourth against the run (103.0).

**Tyreek Hill**
Photo by Joe Robbins

**T1**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 9-9

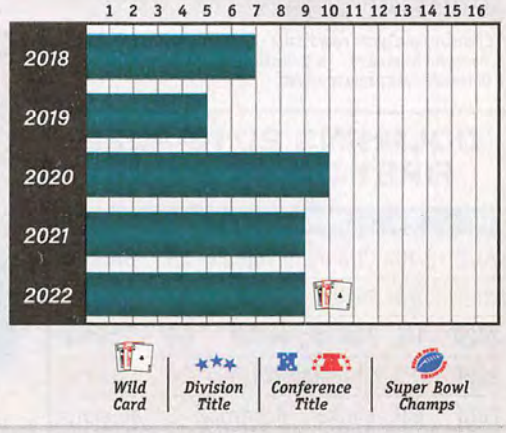
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 3-3

**STADIUM:** Hard Rock Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 64,767

**SURFACE:** Grass (PAT)

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

BAPTIST HEALTH TRAINING COMPLEX
20000 NW 27TH AVE.
MIAMI GARDENS, FL 33056
(954) 452-7000
WWW.DOLPHINS.COM

**TRAINING CAMP:** Baptist Health Training Complex, Miami Gardens, FL
**HEAD COACH:** Mike McDaniel
• 2nd season as Dolphins/NFL head coach
• 9-9 overall; 0-1 postseason
**OWNER/CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD:** Stephen M. Ross
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Chris Grier
**SVP FOOTBALL/BUS. ADMIN.:** Brandon Shore
**ASST. GENERAL MANAGER:** Marvin Allen
**SR. PERSONNEL EXEC.:** Reggie McKenzie
**CO-DIRECTORS PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Anthony Hunt, Adam Engroff

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Frank Smith | Offensive coordinator | 14 | 2 |
| Darrell Bevell | *Quarterbacks | 23 | 2 |
| Chandler Henley | Asst. quarterbacks | 6 | 2 |
| Butch Barry | Offensive line | 8 | 1 |
| Lemuel Jeanpierre | Assistant line | 7 | 3 |
| Eric Studesville | @Running backs | 27 | 6 |
| Wes Welker | Receivers | 7 | 2 |
| Jon Embree | &Tight ends | 15 | 2 |
| Josh Grizzard | Off. quality control | 7 | 7 |
| Kolby Smith | Offensive assistant | 4 | 4 |
| Ricardo Allen | Offensive assistant | 2 | 2 |
| Mike Judge | Offensive assistant | 7 | 5 |
| Max McCaffrey | Offensive assistant | 1 | 1 |
| Vic Fangio | Defensive coordinator | 37 | 1 |
| Austin Clark | Defensive line | 4 | 4 |
| Kenny Baker | Assistant line | 1 | 1 |
| Anthony Campanile | Linebackers | 4 | 4 |
| Ryan Slowik | Outside linebackers | 14 | 2 |
| Renaldo Hill | %Defensive backs | 6 | 2 |
| Sam Madison | #Cornerbacks | 5 | 2 |
| Joe Kasper | Safeties | 5 | 1 |
| Mathieu Araujo | Asst. defensive backs | 2 | 2 |
| Steve Donatell | Defensive assistant | 2 | 1 |
| Danny Crossman | Special teams coord. | 21 | 5 |
| Brendan Farrell | Asst. special teams | 5 | 5 |
| Dave Puloka | Head S&C | 17 | 16 |
| Adam Lachance | Assistant S&C | 9 | 9 |

* Offensive pass game coordinator @ Associate head coach & Assistant head coach % Defensive pass game coordinator # Defensive pass game specialist

## DOLPHINS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 3/102 | Channing Tindall | LB | Backup |
| 2021 | 1/6 | Jaylen Waddle | WR | Starter |
| 2020 | 1/5 | Tua Tagovailoa | QB | Starter |
| 2019 | 1/13 | Christian Wilkins | DE | Starter |
| 2018 | 1/11 | Minkah Fitzpatrick | S | Steelers |

## COACHING

Mike McDaniel is set to begin his second season as head coach. His first year was a success as he guided the Dolphins back to the playoffs for the first time in five years.

McDaniel's biggest new hire is defensive coordinator Vic Fangio, who has spent 37 of the past 38 years in the NFL. Two other key new hires are offensive line coach Butch Barry and Renaldo Hill, who coordinates the pass defense.

Two former Dolphins stars must be having fun because they are coaching perhaps Miami's most talented positions: Wes Welker (wide receivers) and Sam Madison (cornerbacks).

**RATING: 7.5**

## QUARTERBACKS

The Dolphins used three starting quarterbacks last season: Tua Tagavailoa, who went 8-5, Skylar Thompson, who went 1-2 including a playoff game; and Teddy Bridgewater, who went 0-2 and didn't return to the team.

Thanks in large part to its two great receivers, Miami finished fourth in the NFL in passing yards (265.4) and 11th in points (23.4). As for its quarterbacks, Miami finished just 18th in the league in percent of accurate throws (75.1 percent).

Tagovailoa, who has a 65.7 career completion percentage, had two confirmed concussions and one suspected concussion last season. There's a concern for his football career, but also for his quality of life.

Just in case, the Dolphins signed Mike White to a two-year, $8 million contract. The South Florida native had some impressive moments in the past two years with the Jets. In seven career starts, he has had three in which he passed for more than 300 yards.

Thompson, who will challenge White for the backup job, had three interceptions three times and was sacked four times in a 34-31 playoff loss to Buffalo.

**RATING: 7.5**

## RUNNING BACKS

The Dolphins tied for 25th in rushing yards (99.2). Still, Raheem Mostert, 31, is coming off a career-high 891-yard season, and he averaged a healthy 4.9 yards per carry. Jeff Wilson Jr. had 860 yards last season, splitting his time between the 49ers and Dolphins. He also averaged 4.7 yards.

The Dolphins drafted speedy Devon Achane in the third round out of Texas A&M and he could potentially move past Wilson to form a 1-2 punch with Mostert. Achane is coming off a 1,102-yard season. Fullback Alec Ingold is there for blocking.

**RATING: 7.5**

## RECEIVERS

Tyreek Hill and Jaylen Waddle combined last year for 194 catches, 3,066 yards and 15

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

It has been a roller-coaster ride for 2020 first-round pick **Austin Jackson**. He has started at both tackle spots, in addition to guard, but finally looks primed to lock down the vital right-tackle position and protect the blind side for QB Tua Tagovailoa. ... Can edge rusher **Jaelan Phillips** elevate his game to the next level and develop into one of the premier pass rushers in the NFL? The potential is certainly there. He came on strong in Year 1, earning a starting role, while registering 8.5 sacks. Despite becoming a full-time starter last season, Phillips struggled early on before finishing up with seven sacks. This year, Phillips will benefit from the arrival of new defensive coordinator Vic Fangio, in addition to playing opposite DE Bradley Chubb for an entire year. Don't be surprised to see Phillips catapult his way among the league leaders in sacks. ... CB **Verone McKinley** III was a pleasant surprise as an undrafted free agent, earning a midseason call-up and even making two starts. He is expected to play an even larger role in the secondary and could be depended upon as a starter full-time. ... Coming off a season-ending ACL injury, S **Brandon Jones** is a bust-out candidate on the back end of the defense.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

TUA TAGOVAILOA

In his three years in the NFL, Tagovailoa is 21-13 as a starter. But he started just nine out of 16 games as a rookie, 12 of 17 in 2021 and 13 out of 18 last year.

The Dolphins were 8-5 when Tagovailoa started last season and 1-4 when he was out injured, including going one-and-done in the playoffs. The pressure is on for Tagovailoa to avoid his concussion issues.

But when he's healthy, he's been good. Last year, he passed for career highs in yards (3,548) and touchdowns (25). He also cut his interception rate to 2.0 percent from 2.6 in 2021. He had career highs in yards per attempt (8.87) and yards per completion (13.7).

Tua Tagovailoa
Photo by Joe Robbins

touchdowns. Neither missed a game and they could be the best receiver duo in the NFL, helping the Dolphins rank seventh in the league in lowest percentage of dropped passes (6.4). Hill and Waddle were targeted 287 times last year, and that leaves relatively few passes for their teammates.

That could explain why Cedric Wilson Jr., who was signed away from the Cowboys and given a three-year, $22.8 million contract in March of 2022, was a disappointment.

The Dolphins added two ex-Jets to this unit: Chosen Anderson and Braxton Berrios. Anderson, 30, may be declining since a 1,096-yard season in 2020. Berrios is a slot receiver and star punt returner.

At tight end, durable Durham Smythe is mostly a blocker. Sixth-rounder Elijah Higgins could replace Mike Gesicki as Miami's receiving tight end. Higgins ran a 4.54 at the NFL Combine and he had a team-high 704 receiving yards last season for Stanford.

**RATING: 9**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The front wall ranked 17th in the NFL in efficiency. Isolating only the sacks that analytics blamed on the offensive line, this unit gave up 19 of them, seventh fewest in the NFL. Connor Williams graded out as the NFL's fourth-best center, Robert Hunt ranked 12th at guard and Terron Armstead 15th at tackle. Guard Liam Eichenberg, a former second-round pick, didn't grade out well (75th at his position), and Austin Jackson, a first-rounder in 2020, played only two games last year. He was a backup to start the year, and then he injured his ankle.

**RATING: 7**

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

### KEY ADDITION

**CB Jalen Ramsey**
The Dolphins have added an elite, durable and highly confident talent in his prime. Ramsey has made the Pro Bowl in each of the past six seasons, and he's only 28.

### OTHER ADDITIONS:

WR Chosen Anderson, P Jake Bailey, WR Braxton Berrios, S DeShon Elliott, G/T Dan Feeney, LB David Long Jr., LB Malik Reed, TE Eric Saubert, QB Mike White

### KEY LOSS:

**TE Mike Gesicki (17/1)***
You hate to lose a good player to the rival Patriots. Gesicki entered last season ranked as the NFL's No. 8 tight end. But Gesicki, 27, slipped from 73 catches in 2021 to 32 last year.

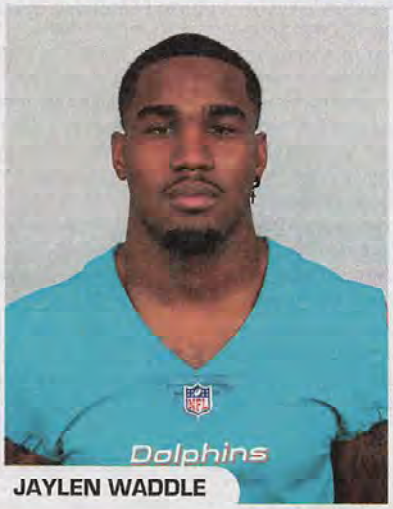
OTHER LOSSES:
QB Teddy Bridgewater (5/2), TE Cethan Carter (1/0), C Michael Deiter (17/0), LB Sam Eguavoen (17/0), S Clayton Fejedelem (13/0), T Eric Fisher (0/0), LB Trey Flowers (4/0), LB Melvin Ingram (17/3), DT John Jenkins (16/0), TE Hunter Long (9/0), CB Byron Jones (0/0), T Greg Little (17/7), P Thomas Morstead (17/0), **LB Elandon Roberts (17/17)**, S Eric Rowe (14/6), TE Adam Shaheen (0/0), **T Brandon Shell (13/11)**, WR Trent Sherfield (17/4), DT Justin Zimmer (5/1)*
**Total games played/started lost: 216/52**

### STARTERS RETURNING

20: 10 offense, 10 defense, kicker

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS



JAYLEN WADDLE

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tua Tagovailoa | 400 | 259 | 3548 | 25 | 8 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Raheem Mostert | 181 | 891 | 4.9 | 3 |
| Jeff Wilson | 84 | 392 | 4.7 | 3 |
| Chase Edmonds | 42 | 120 | 2.9 | 2 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tyreek Hill | 119 | 1710 | 14.4 | 7 |
| Jaylen Waddle | 75 | 1356 | 18.1 | 8 |
| Trent Sherfield | 30 | 417 | 13.9 | 2 |
| Mike Gesicki | 32 | 362 | 11.3 | 5 |

**Kicking:** Sanders 41/44 XPs, 26/32 FGs, 119 points
**Tackles:** Roberts 104, Baker 100, Wilkins 98
**Sacks:** Phillips 7, Ingram 6, Roberts 4.5
**INTs:** Holland 2, six tied with 1

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 364.5 | 6 |
| Passing Offense | 265.4 | 4 |
| Rushing Offense | 99.2 | T-25 |
| Points | 23.4 | 11 |
| Sacked | 35 | T-9 |
| 3rd Down % | 36.2 | 24 |
| **Defense** | | |
| Total Defense | 337.8 | 18 |
| Passing Defense | 234.8 | 27 |
| Rushing Defense | 103.0 | 4 |
| Points Allowed | 23.5 | 24 |
| INTs | 8 | 29 |
| Sacks | 40 | T-14 |
| Turnover Diff. | -7 | T-28 |

# DOLPHINS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Anderson, Chosen | 6-3 | 190 | 8 | Temple | 16/7/0/1 | FA 23 | CFA NYJ 16 | Had 1,096 yards in 2020, but just 801 yards in two years since. |
| 0 | Berrios, Braxton | 5-9 | 190 | 6 | Miami | 17/2 | FA 23 | D6 NE 18 | Back in Miami, where he played in college; 11.4 career average on punt returns. |
| 80 | Conner, Tanner | 6-3 | 232 | 2 | Idaho State | 13/0/0/4 | CFA 22 | CFA MIA 22 | Two targets, no catches as undrafted rookie last year; likely on practice squad. |
| 85 | Cracraft, River | 6-0 | 198 | 5 | Washington State | 11/0/0/6 | FA 22 | CFA DEN 17 | Undrafted fifth-year player scored first two TDs of his career last year. |
| 18 | Ezukanma, Erik | 6-2 | 206 | 2 | Texas Tech | 1/0/0/16 | D4 22 | D4 MIA 22 | Spent 16 games of rookie year as healthy scratch, getting one catch for three yards. |
| 84 | Higgins, Elijah (TE) | 6-3 | 228 | R | Stanford | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 MIA 23 | Runs good routes; elusive after catch; but catch radius is average. |
| **10** | **Hill, Tyreek** | **5-10** | **191** | **8** | **West Alabama** | **17/17** | **T,KC 22** | **D5 KC 16** | **No missed games in two years; last year career high in catches (119), yards (1,710).** |
| 82 | Saubert, Eric (TE) | 6-5 | 253 | 6 | Drake | 17/6 | UFA,DEN 23 | D5 ATL 17 | On his seventh NFL team in seven years; averages just 5.5 catches per season. |
| **81** | **Smythe, Durham (TE)** | **6-6** | **246** | **6** | **Notre Dame** | **16/15/0/1** | **D4 18** | **D4 MIA 18** | **56 starts in five years; has missed only three games in his career.** |
| 88 | Swain, Freddie | 6-0 | 197 | 4 | Florida | 4/1/0/1 | W,DEN 23 | D6 SEA 20 | Only four catches last year; longshot to make roster; special teams will be key. |
| **17** | **Waddle, Jaylen** | **5-10** | **182** | **3** | **Alabama** | **17/17** | **D1 21** | **D1 MIA 21** | **Two straight 1,000-yard seasons; average per catch up from 9.8 to 18.1.** |
| 11 | Wilson Jr., Cedrick (RS) | 6-2 | 197 | 6 | Boise State | 15/0/0/2 | UFA,DALL 22 | D6 DALL 18 | He went from 602 receiving yards to 136; roster spot in doubt. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **72** | **Armstead, Terron (LT)** | **6-5** | **305** | **11** | **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** | **13/13/0/4** | **UFA,NORL 22** | **D3 NORL 13** | **Injury-prone, but stellar pass-blocker; allowed only one sack, 15 pressures in 2022.** |
| 78 | Christian Sr., Geron (T) | 6-5 | 298 | 6 | Louisville | 10/0/1/6 | W,KC 22 | D3 WSH 18 | Cut by three teams in past two years; long odds to make Dolphins. |
| **74** | **Eichenberg, Liam (LG)** | **6-5** | **306** | **3** | **Notre Dame** | **10/10/0/0** | **D2 21** | **D2 MIA 21** | **Missed eight games due to knee and hand injuries; still allowed 27 pressures.** |
| 67 | Feeney, Dan (G/C) | 6-4 | 310 | 7 | Indiana | 17/2 | UFA,NYJ 23 | D3 LAC 17 | First guard/center off bench; 96 games and 64 starts in six-year career. |
| 76 | Hayes, Ryan (T) | 6-7 | 305 | R | Michigan | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 MIA 23 | Plays with good technique, but lacks ideal athleticism. |
| **68** | **Hunt, Robert (RG)** | **6-6** | **335** | **4** | **Louisiana-Lafayette** | **17/17** | **D2 20** | **D2 MIA 20** | **Allowed only three sacks and had three penalties last year; has Pro-Bowl potential.** |
| **73** | ***Jackson, Austin (RT)** | **6-5** | **320** | **4** | **Southern Cal** | **2/2/1/2** | **D1 20** | **D1 MIA 20** | **Suffered two major ankle injuries last year; under pressure as blind-side protector.** |
| 65 | Jones, Robert (G) | 6-4 | 334 | 3 | Middle Tennessee | 16/7/1/0 | CFA 21 | CFA MIA 21 | Has played 24 games, including eight starts, in two years with Miami. |
| 70 | Lamm, Kendall (T) | 6-5 | 310 | 8 | Appalachian State | 1/1/2/1 | FA 22 | CFA HOUS 15 | Has 87 games (29 starts) in eight-year career; cut twice in past several months. |
| **58** | **Williams, Connor (C)** | **6-5** | **317** | **6** | **Texas** | **17/17** | **UFA,DALL 22** | **D2 DALL 18** | **Cut penalties from 17 in 2021 to four last year; allowing only three sacks.** |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 | Achane, Devon | 5-9 | 185 | R | Texas A&M | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 MIA 23 | Hard and elusive runner, had 215 yards in his final college game (LSU). |
| 26 | Ahmed, Salvon | 5-11 | 197 | 4 | Washington | 12/0/3/2 | FA 20 | CFA SF 20 | Got career-low 12 carries last year; roster spot in jeopardy. |
| 37 | *Gaskin, Myles | 5-10 | 194 | 5 | Washington | 4/0/0/11 | D7 19 | D7 MIA 19 | Had career-low 10 carries in 2022; roster spot also in jeopardy. |
| **30** | **Ingold, Alec (FB)** | **6-1** | **235** | **4** | **Wisconsin** | **17/14** | **FA 22** | **CFA OAK 19** | **Crushing blocker set career highs last year in catches (15), touches (21), TDs (2).** |
| 46 | *Lovett, John (FB) | 6-2 | 236 | 3 | Princeton | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA KC 19 | Hasn't played in NFL since ACL knee surgery in November 2020. |
| **31** | **Mostert, Raheem** | **5-10** | **205** | **8** | **Purdue** | **16/14/0/1** | **UFA,SF 22** | **CFA PHA 15** | **Had 1,093 scrimmage yards; played more than 11 games for second time in career.** |
| 23 | Wilson Jr., Jeff | 6-0 | 213 | 6 | North Texas | 16/7/0/1 | T,SF 22 | CFA SF 18 | Totaled 143 scrimmage yards vs. Browns; signed two-year extension in March. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **1** | **Tagovailoa, Tua** | **6-1** | **217** | **4** | **Alabama** | **13/13/0/4** | **D1 20** | **D1 MIA 20** | **His 2022 passer rating second best in Miami history, trailing Dan Marino in 1984.** |
| 19 | Thompson, Skylar | 6-2 | 219 | 2 | Kansas State | 7/2/3/7 | D7 22 | D7 MIA 22 | Got unexpected playing time as seventh-round rookie; starting playoff loss to Bills. |
| 14 | White, Mike | 6-5 | 218 | 5 | Western Kentucky | 4/4/6/7 | UFA,NYJ 23 | D5 DALL 18 | In seven career starts, he has passed for 240 or more yards six times. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **98** | **Davis, Raekwon (NT)** | **6-7** | **335** | **4** | **Alabama** | **16/15/0/1** | **D2 20** | **D2 MIA 20** | **Run-stuffer has only four QB hits, 1.5 sacks in three seasons.** |
| 91 | *Ogbah, Emmanuel (E) | 6-4 | 278 | 8 | Oklahoma State | 9/3/0/1 | UFA, KC 20 | D2 CLV 16 | Led team in sacks with 9.0 in 2020 and again in 2021; had poor year in 2022. |
| **92** | **Sieler, Zach (T)** | **6-6** | **305** | **6** | **Ferris State** | **17/15** | **W,BLT 19** | **D7 BLT 18** | **Max-effort lineman had career-high 12 QB hits last season.** |
| **94** | **Wilkins, Christian (T)** | **6-4** | **310** | **5** | **Clemson** | **17/17** | **D1 19** | **D1 MIA 19** | **Elite run defender; next step is to improve sack total (3.5 in 2022).** |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **55** | **Baker, Jerome (I)** | **6-2** | **225** | **6** | **Ohio State** | **17/17** | **D3 18** | **D3 MIA 18** | **Has averaged 102 tackles per year since his rookie season in 2018.** |
| **2** | **Chubb, Bradley (O)** | **6-4** | **275** | **6** | **North Carolina State** | **16/15/0/1** | **T,DEN 22** | **D1 DEN 18** | **Has 28.5 sacks in 57 career games; still seeking consistency.** |
| **51** | ***Long Jr., David (I)** | **5-11** | **227** | **5** | **West Virginia** | **12/12/0/0** | **UFA,TENN 23** | **D6 TENN 19** | **Has missed 12 games due to injury during the past two years.** |
| **15** | **Phillips, Jaelan (O)** | **6-5** | **263** | **3** | **Miami** | **17/15** | **D1 21** | **D1 MIA 21** | **He's now more well-rounded; tackles up from 41 as a rookie to 62 last year.** |
| 47 | Reed, Malik (O) | 6-2 | 235 | 5 | Nevada | 14/2/0/3 | UFA,PITT 23 | CFA DEN 19 | Played 45 games, including 34 starts, in Denver under new coordinator Vic Fangio. |
| 45 | Riley, Duke (O) | 6-1 | 227 | 6 | Louisiana State | 17/2 | UFA,PHA 21 | D3 ATL 17 | Veteran backup and special-teams ace has played 90 games, 29 starts. |
| 41 | Tindall, Channing (I) | 6-2 | 232 | 2 | Georgia | 16/0/0/1 | D3 22 | D3 MIA 22 | With 4.47 speed, he spent rookie year learning pro defense. Team is high on him. |
| 43 | Van Ginkel, Andrew (O) | 6-4 | 242 | 5 | Wisconsin | 17/5 | D5 19 | D5 MIA 19 | Has 11 sacks and two TDs in four years; 56 games and 31 starts. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | Bethel, Justin (CB) | 6-0 | 200 | 12 | Prebyterian | 17/0 | FA 22 | D6 ARIZ 12 | Has played 176 games; still stars on special teams, downing punts inside the 10. |
| 22 | Campbell, Elijah (CB/S) | 5-11 | 195 | 3 | Northern Iowa | 16/1/0/1 | W,NYJ 21 | CFA CLV 18 | Played for three colleges; cut by Browns, Jets; started first NFL game in 2022. |
| 27 | Crossen, Keion (CB) | 5-10 | 195 | 6 | Western Carolina | 16/2/0/1 | UFA,NYG 22 | D7 NE 18 | Had two starts; mostly ineffective in coverage, key on special teams. |
| 21 | Elliott, DeShon (S) | 6-1 | 210 | 6 | Texas | 14/13/0/3 | UFA,DET 23 | D6 BLT 18 | Started 35 games past three years with Ravens, Lions; two picks in 42 career games. |
| **8** | **Holland, Jevon (S)** | **6-1** | **207** | **3** | **Oregon** | **17/17** | **D2 21** | **D2 MIA 21** | **Versatile; defeats blocks in run game, defends pass well and leads.** |
| **25** | **Howard, Xavien (CB)** | **6-1** | **203** | **8** | **Baylor** | **15/15/0/2** | **D2 16** | **D2 MIA 16** | **After missing 11 games in 2019, he has missed only three in the past there seasons.** |
| 9 | Igbinoghene, Noah (CB/RS) | 5-11 | 197 | 4 | Auburn | 9/2/0/8 | D1 20 | D1 MIA 20 | Had game-clinching pick vs. Steelers; must fight for roster spot to avoid bust label. |
| **29** | ***Jones, Brandon (S)** | **6-1** | **191** | **4** | **Texas** | **7/7/0/0** | **D3 20** | **D3 MIA 20** | **Expert blitzer will try to hold off ex-Longhorns teammate Elliott for starting job.** |
| 4 | Kohou, Kader (CB) | 5-10 | 195 | 2 | Texas A&M-Commerce | 15/12/0/2 | CFA 22 | CFA MIA 22 | From African birth to Division II to fifth on team in tackles as undrafted rookie. |
| 32 | McKinley III, Verone (S) | 5-10 | 195 | 2 | Oregon | 10/2/1/0 | FA 22 | CFA MIA 22 | College All-American; lacks speed, but could have role as fourth safety. |
| 40 | *Needham, Nik (CB) | 6-1 | 196 | 5 | Texas-El Paso | 6/5/0/0 | FA 19 | CFA MIA 19 | Had six INTs in three years as third CB; foot surgery last year, lost job to Kohou. |
| **5** | **Ramsey, Jalen (CB)** | **6-1** | **208** | **8** | **Florida State** | **17/17** | **T,LAR 23** | **D1 JAX 16** | **Not just a cover corner; he's also elite as a run-stopper.** |
| 24 | Smith, Cam (CB) | 6-0 | 188 | R | South Carolina | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 MIA 23 | Comfortable reading and jumping routes in zone; drew 10 flags in college last year. |
| | *Williams, Trill (CB) | 6-1 | 206 | 3 | Syracuse | 0/0/0/0 | W,NORL 21 | CFA NORL 21 | Missed last season due to knee injury; might move to safety. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | *Bailey, Jake (P) | 6-2 | 205 | 4 | Stanford | 9/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D5 NE 19 | Finished last in the NFL last year in punting average (42.1). |
| 44 | Ferguson, Blake (LS) | 6-3 | 240 | 4 | Louisiana State | 17/0 | D6 20 | D6 MIA 20 | A national champ at LSU, he hasn't missed a game in his three-year NFL career. |
| 7 | Sanders, Jason (K) | 5-11 | 190 | 6 | New Mexico | 17/0 | D7 18 | D7 MIA 18 | Ranked 19th in league in PAT percentage (93.2) and field-goal percentage (81.1). |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WR Braylon Sanders (1, Mississippi); T Kion Smith (1, Fayetteville State); G Lester Cotton Jr. (2, Alabama); DTs Josiah Bronson Jr. (2, Washington), Jaylen Twyman (1, Pittsburgh); LB Cameron Goode (1, California); CB Tino Ellis (1, Maryland)

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Christian Wilkins, a first-rounder in 2019, emerged as a star last year, leading the NFL's interior defensive linemen in tackles (98), run stops (55) and run-stop win rate. This is what the Dolphins dreamed of when they drafted the two-time Clemson All-American.

Raekwon Davis is massive and he often ties up two blockers, opening things up for Wilkins. Zach Sieler emerged in 2022, playing 77 percent of Miami's defensive snaps and responding with a career-high 70 tackles.

It will be interesting to see what happens with Emmanuel Ogbah, who in 2021 had 24 QB hits, 12 passes defensed and nine sacks. After the season, he signed a four-year, $65 million contract. Unfortunately, he missed the second half of last season due to injury, and he was held to seven QB hits, one sack and no passes defended in nine games.

**RATING: 8**

## LINEBACKERS

Blessed with terrific speed and relentless pursuit skills, Jaelan Phillips has 15.5 sacks in two years. He's a player on the rise. David Long Jr., signed away from the Titans (two years, $11 million), completes Miami's starting linebacker quartet. His metrics are stellar as a run defender and average on pass defense. In the past two years, he has totaled 11 tackles for losses, 11 passes defensed and four interceptions.

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Can the Dolphins keep Tua Tagovailoa clean in the pocket? He was knocked down 27 times in 13 games last season. Given his fragile body, those are 27 hold-your-breath moments for Miami.

2. What can new defensive coordinator Vic Fangio do with all his playmakers? He's got shutdown corners in Xavien Howard and Jalen Ramsey. He has a playmaking safety (Jevon Holland), talented edge rushers (Jaelan Phillips and Bradley Chubb) and a defensive lineman (Christian Wilkins) who led the squad with 16 tackles for losses.

3. Can any defense match the speed of wide receivers Tyreek Hill and Jaylen Waddle? During the Next Gen Stats era, dating to 2016, Hill has the NFL's fastest in-game timing (23.24 mph). Last year, Hill didn't register a top-10 timing. But Waddle was sixth in the league (21.68).

The other inside linebacker is steady Jerome Baker, who had 100 tackles last season and has missed just one game in his five-year career. Bradley Chubb, acquired from Denver in November, had eight sacks last year. But he has yet to come close to replicating his 12-sack rookie year of 2018.

**RATING: 7.5**

## SECONDARY

Cornerbacks Xavien Howard and newly acquired Jalen Ramsey have combined to earn 10 Pro-Bowl selections in the past six years, including six by the latter player.

Howard, though, had just one interception last year after grabbing 15 in the previous two seasons. At age 30, he may be starting to slow down. Ramsey, 28, set career highs last year in picks (four), passes defensed (18), forced fumbles and sacks (two each).

At safety, Brandon Jones – who missed the final 11 games after knee surgery – is back to team with Jevon Holland. They're a solid duo with Holland making more impact plays.

**RATING: 8**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Newly acquired punter Jake Bailey made the Pro Bowl in 2019. Kicker Jason Sanders made the Pro Bowl in 2020. However, Bailey was injured, suspended and then released by New England last year. His punting average went from 48.7 to 42.1. Sanders' field-goal accuracy has gone from 92.3 percent in 2020 to 77.7 percent the past two years.

Miami's special teams helped win three games last year with big plays, including Sanders' 50-yard, last-minute field goal to beat the Jets and send Miami to the playoffs. In a three-point win over the Bears, Jaelan Phillips had a punt block that was returned for a touchdown by Andrew Van Ginkel. And in a two-point win over Buffalo, Emmanuel Ogbah blocked a field goal.

But Miami had the NFL's worst kickoff coverage (27.8-yard average). On offense, their kick return and punt return units were both bottom-three in the league as they declined to use Tyreek Hill or Jaylen Waddle on runbacks for fear of injury. Newcomers Devon Achane (kickoffs) and Braxton Berrios (punts) could boost the return units. Achane ran back two kickoffs for touchdowns in college, including a 98-yarder against Alabama. Berrios made the Pro Bowl as a punt returner in 2021.

**RATING: 7**

## INTANGIBLES

There's excitement regarding what new defensive coordinator Vic Fangio can do with the existing talent.

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Walter Villa

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 9-9**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | NEW ENGLAND | 20-7 |
| Sept. 18 | at Baltimore | 42-38 |
| Sept. 25 | BUFFALO | 21-19 |
| Sept. 29 | at Cincinnati | 15-27 |
| Oct. 9 | at N.Y. Jets | 17-40 |
| Oct. 16 | MINNESOTA | 16-24 |
| Oct. 23 | PITTSBURGH | 16-10 |
| Oct. 30 | at Detroit | 31-27 |
| Nov. 6 | at Chicago | 35-32 |
| Nov. 13 | CLEVELAND | 39-17 |
| Nov. 27 | HOUSTON | 30-15 |
| Dec. 4 | at San Francisco | 17-33 |
| Dec. 11 | at L.A. Chargers | 17-23 |
| Dec. 17 | at Buffalo | 29-32 |
| Dec. 25 | GREEN BAY | 20-26 |
| Jan. 1 | at New England | 21-23 |
| Jan. 8 | N.Y. JETS | 11-6 |
| Jan. 15 | at Buffalo | 31-34 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Eastern**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | ATLANTA | TBD |
| Aug. 19 | at Houston (Sat) | 8:00 |
| Aug. 24-27 | JACKSONVILLE | TBD |
| Sept. 10 | at L.A. Chargers | 4:25 |
| Sept. 17 | at New England | 8:20 |
| Sept. 24 | DENVER | 1:00 |
| Oct. 1 | at Buffalo | 1:00 |
| Oct. 8 | N.Y. GIANTS | 1:00 |
| Oct. 15 | CAROLINA | 1:00 |
| Oct. 22 | at Philadelphia | 8:20 |
| Oct. 29 | NEW ENGLAND | 1:00 |
| Nov. 5 | Kansas City (Germany) | 9:30 |
| | BYE | |
| Nov. 19 | LAS VEGAS | 1:00 |
| Nov. 24 | at N.Y. Jets (Fri) | 3:00 |
| Dec. 3 | at Washington | 1:00 |
| Dec. 11 | TENNESSEE (Mon) | 8:15 |
| Dec. 17 | N.Y. JETS | 1:00 |
| Dec. 24 | DALLAS | 4:25 |
| Dec. 31 | at Baltimore | 1:00 |
| TBD | BUFFALO | TBD |

# NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

## Is This Make-or-Break Year for Jones?

The most common word floating around the Patriots during the offseason? Dysfunction.

While many thought that description had left the building with Matt Patricia and Joe Judge being jettisoned out of their respective roles on offense, that seemed more like wishful thinking during the leadup to minicamp in June.

Head coach Bill Belichick and owner Robert Kraft didn't appear to be on the same page. Ditto Belichick and quarterback Mac Jones.

By most accounts, Belichick appears to have soured on Jones, his 2021 first-round pick and presumed starter.

Kraft, meanwhile, is squarely in Jones' corner, acknowledging the young quarterback was put in a difficult position last season by having Patricia and Judge, coaches with no experience running an offense, leading him.

At one point in March, it was reported the Patriots had floated Jones in trade talks during the offseason, so all did not seem well in Foxboro.

If there's a reason for optimism with the Patriots, that comes with the addition of Bill O'Brien as offensive coordinator.

O'Brien should be able to get Jones and the offense, one of the NFL's worst at scoring touchdowns in 2022, back on track. Speaking with the media in April, one of O'Brien's goals was to purge last season from memory and start fresh.

"I think the big thing for us right now is everybody starting with a clean slate," O'Brien said. "What you did in the past really has no bearing on what happens moving forward."

**Matthew Judon**

Photo by Joe Robbins

**3**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 8-9

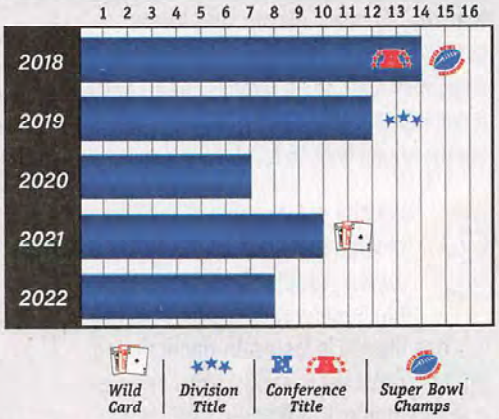
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 3-3

**STADIUM:** Gillette Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 66,829

**SURFACE:** FieldTurf

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

GILLETTE STADIUM
ONE PATRIOT PLACE
FOXBOROUGH, MA 02035
(508) 543-8200
WWW.PATRIOTS.COM

**TRAINING CAMP:** Gillette Stadium; Foxborough, MA
**HEAD COACH:** Bill Belichick
- 24th season with Patriots
- 292-120 overall; 30-12 postseason
- 29th season as NFL head coach
- 329-165 overall; 31-13 postseason

**CHAIRMAN & CEO:** Robert Kraft
**DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Matt Groh
**DIRECTOR SCOUTING:** Eliot Wolf
**COLLEGE SCOUTING DIR.:** Camren Williams
**PRO SCOUTING DIRECTOR:** Steve Cargile

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bill O'Brien | Off.coordinator/QBs | 13 | 6 |
| Will Lawling | Offense | 8 | 1 |
| Adrian Klemm | Offensive line | 10 | 1 |
| Billy Yates | Assistant line | 6 | 3 |
| Vinnie Sunseri | Running backs | 4 | 4 |
| Troy Brown | Receivers/KORs | 5 | 5 |
| Ross Douglas | Receivers | 3 | 3 |
| Evan Rothstein | Offensive assistant | 12 | 3 |
| DeMarcus Covington | Defensive line | 7 | 7 |
| Jerod Mayo | Linebackers | 5 | 5 |
| Steve Belichick | Linebackers | 12 | 12 |
| Mike Pellegrino | Cornerbacks | 9 | 9 |
| Brian Belichick | Safeties | 7 | 7 |
| Cameron Achord | Special teams coord. | 6 | 6 |
| Joe Houston | Special teams asst. | 4 | 4 |
| Moses Cabrera | Head S&C | 13 | 13 |
| Deron Mayo | S&C assistant | 6 | 6 |
| Joe Judge | Asst. head coach/ST | 12 | 10 |

## PATRIOTS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/29 | Cole Strange | G | Starter |
| 2021 | 1/15 | Mac Jones | QB | Starter |
| 2020 | 2/37 | Kyle Dugger | S | Starter |
| 2019 | 1/32 | N'Keal Harry | WR | UFA |
| 2018 | 1/23 | Isaiah Wynn | T | Starter |

## COACHING

Bill Belichick stands 19 wins shy of breaking Don Shula's all-time record for wins by a head coach. He's faced a bit of criticism in recent years, most notably for the failed experiment with his offensive coaching staff. Matt Patricia, who was the offensive play-caller and offensive line coach, is no longer with the team. Joe Judge, who was the quarterbacks coach, reportedly has the title of assistant head coach. Their replacements, Bill O'Brien as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, and Adrian Klemm, as offensive line coach, are clearly upgrades. The defensive staff, meanwhile, remains intact. Most notably, the Pats managed to keep linebackers coach Jerod Mayo, who turned down several head coaching interviews. He's now considered the leader in the clubhouse to succeed Belichick. Belichick's son Stephen serves as the team's defensive play-caller while Brian Belichick is the safeties coach.

**RATING: 9**

## QUARTERBACKS

Even though Belichick hasn't committed to Jones as his starter, it's still difficult to envision Bailey Zappe, who functioned within a simplified system against several of the NFL's worst defenses last year, overtaking him. Now that Jones is once again working with an experienced offensive play-caller and quarterbacks coach in O'Brien, he should get back to displaying the form that made him shine during his rookie season. Former Arizona backup Trace McSorley was added to the mix. It's interesting to note that the Patriots signed undrafted quarterback Malik Cunningham, an athletic passer who replaced Lamar Jackson at Louisville.

**RATING: 7**

## RUNNING BACKS

Rhamondre Stevenson took over the job as the No. 1 back last season, and that won't change. He had a breakout campaign in 2022, leading the team in catches, while becoming the team's first 1,000-yard back since 2016. After Stevenson, the Patriots brought former Jaguars and Jets back James Robinson aboard. He could rise to No. 2 status, or it will be one of the team's 2022 draft picks, Pierre Strong or Kevin Harris.

Robinson is only 24, and recorded a 1,000-yard season during his rookie campaign.

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

The Patriots have thrown a litany of various running backs at opponents on a weekly basis, but **Rhamondre Stevenson** appears to be ready to rumble with even more of a workload. Despite just seven starts a year ago, Stevenson very quietly exceeded the 1,000-yard barrier. He could be a dark horse candidate to lead the NFL in rushing. ... New England lacked competence from a play-calling standpoint on offense last season. With the return of Bill O'Brien as offensive coordinator, second-year wideout **Tyquan Thornton** will be placed in situations to succeed and take advantage of his speed; he should see 100-plus targets. ... Last year, was supposed to be the much-anticipated breakout campaign for DL **Christian Barmore.** Unfortunately, his knee flared up midseason, causing him to miss seven games. The good news is the injury did not require surgery and Barmore was able to rehab back to full strength with rest. Look for this year to finally be his time to shine and emerge as a key cog up front. ... One player under the radar is nickel back **Myles Bryant.** He saw 61 percent of the defensive reps in 2022, up from 27 percent as a rookie, while also moonlighting as a punt returner.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

MAC JONES

After a sparkling rookie season under the watchful eye of Josh McDaniels, Jones regressed in the wake of McDaniels' departure to Las Vegas. Under Matt Patricia and Joe Judge, coaches who had little experience running an offense, Jones struggled mightily in Year 2.

With the arrival of offensive coordinator Bill O'Brien, who previously worked in the same role under Bill Belichick, Jones hopes to get back on track. If he continues to struggle, he might no longer be considered a legitimate starting quarterback.

Adding to the intrigue, Belichick has repeatedly refused to name Jones the starter, planting the seed for a quarterback competition with Bailey Zappe. Whether Belichick is trying to motivate his young quarterback, or he's lost faith in Jones, the pressure is on him to produce.

# PATRIOTS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 84 | Bourne, Kendrick | 6-1 | 190 | 7 | Eastern Washington | 16/2/0/1 | UFA,SF 21 | CFA SF 17 | After not being utilized much in 2022; hoping for better days under Bill O'Brien. |
| | Boutte, Kayshon | 6-0 | 195 | R | Louisiana State | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 NE 23 | Promising LSU rookie who hasn't been the same since breaking right ankle in 2021. |
| | Douglas, Demario | 5-8 | 170 | R | Liberty | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 NE 23 | Sixth-round rookie who led Liberty in receiving the last two seasons. |
| | **Gesicki, Mike (TE)** | **6-6** | **250** | **6** | **Penn State** | **17/1** | **UFA,MIA 23** | **D2 MIA 18** | **Former Dolphins tight end comes aboard after signing in free agency.** |
| **85** | **Henry, Hunter (TE)** | **6-5** | **250** | **8** | **Arkansas** | **17/14** | **UFA,LAC 21** | **D2 SD 16** | **He's looking to rebound after one of his worst statistical seasons as a pro.** |
| 14 | *Montgomery II, Ty | 6-0 | 216 | 9 | Stanford | 1/0/0/0 | UFA,NORL 22 | D3 GB 15 | Spent the year on injured reserve after being signed in free agency in 2022. |
| **1** | **Parker, DeVante** | **6-3** | **219** | **9** | **Louisville** | **13/11/0/4** | **T,MIA 22** | **D1 MIA 15** | **He stands as their designated deep-ball, contested-catch threat.** |
| 18 | Slater, Matthew | 6-0 | 205 | 16 | UCLA | 17/0/0/0 | D5 08 | D5 NE 08 | The 10-time Pro Bowler and special-teams captain returns for his 16th season. |
| | **Smith-Schuster, JuJu** | **6-1** | **215** | **7** | **Southern Cal** | **16/14/0/1** | **UFA,KC 23** | **D2 PITT 17** | **Signed in free agency for his explosiveness and yards-after-catch ability.** |
| 11 | Thornton, Tyquan | 6-2 | 182 | 2 | Baylor | 13/9/0/0 | D2 22 | D2 NE 22 | He's a burner who needs to show more after a disappointing rookie season. |
| 44 | Webb, Raleigh | 6-2 | 204 | 2 | Citadel | 12/0/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA BLT 22 | Signed off the Ravens' practice squad and mostly used as a special-teams player. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| | Anderson, Calvin (T) | 6-5 | 300 | 5 | Texas | 14/7/0/3 | UFA,DEN 23 | CFA NE 19 | Signed in free agency with potential to serve as a swing tackle. |
| **60** | **Andrews, David (C)** | **6-3** | **300** | **9** | **Georgia** | **14/14/0/3** | **CFA 15** | **CFA NE 15** | **Team captain and center was part of two Super-Bowl championships.** |
| | Andrews, Jake (C) | 6-3 | 305 | R | Troy | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 NE 23 | Fourth-round pick out of Troy adds depth behind David Andrews. |
| **77** | **Brown, Trent (LT)** | **6-8** | **370** | **9** | **Florida** | **17/16** | **T,LV 21** | **D7 SF 15** | **Starting blind-side tackle coming off season rife with penalties and sacks allowed.** |
| 72 | Cajuste, Yodny (T) | 6-5 | 310 | 4 | West Virginia | 10/3/2/1 | D3 19 | D3 NE 19 | Hampered by a thumb injury; reserve tackle started three games. |
| 65 | Ferentz, James (C) | 6-2 | 300 | 8 | Iowa | 12/3/5/0 | FA 22 | CFA HOUS 14 | Has been a reliable backup at both center and guard positions. |
| 63 | *Hines, Chasen (G) | 6-3 | 330 | 2 | Louisiana State | 0/0/5/2 | D6 22 | D6 NE 22 | Former sixth-round pick spent most of his rookie season on injured reserve. |
| | Mafi, Atonio (G) | 6-3 | 329 | R | UCLA | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 NE 23 | Rookie guard out of UCLA is another potential depth piece. |
| 75 | McDermott, Conor (T) | 6-8 | 310 | 7 | UCLA | 6/6/1/0 | FA 22 | D6 NE 17 | Signed late last year off Jets practice squad, and started at right tackle. |
| **71** | **Onwenu, Michael (RG)** | **6-3** | **350** | **4** | **Michigan** | **17/17** | **D6 20** | **D6 NE 20** | **Easily their best lineman last season. Enters final year of rookie deal.** |
| | **Reiff, Riley (RT)** | **6-6** | **313** | **12** | **Iowa** | **16/10/1/0** | **UFA,CHI 23** | **D1 DET 12** | **Veteran tackle signed in free agency is potential starter on the right side.** |
| 66 | Russey, Kody (C) | 6-2 | 300 | 2 | Houston | 0/0/10/0 | FA 22 | CFA NE 22 | Returns after signing as a rookie undrafted free agent last season. |
| | Sow, Sidy (G) | 6-5 | 326 | R | Eastern Michigan | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 NE 23 | Eastern Michigan rookie will compete to make the 53-man roster. |
| **69** | **Strange, Cole (LG)** | **6-5** | **305** | **2** | **Chattanooga** | **17/17** | **D1 22** | **D1 NE 22** | **The team's 2022 first-round pick was so-so starting at left guard.** |
| 64 | *Stueber, Andrew (T) | 6-6 | 312 | 1 | Michigan | 0/0/0/0 | D7 22 | D7 NE 22 | Didn't play rookie season due to a torn hamstring suffered in August. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 36 | Harris, Kevin | 5-10 | 225 | 2 | South Carolina | 5/1/0/7 | FA 22 | D6 NE 22 | Between the tackles runner who is hoping to stick in his second season. |
| | Robinson, James | 5-9 | 219 | 4 | Illinois State | 11/5/0/6 | FA 23 | CFA JAX 20 | Former Jaguar and Jet signed in free agency to help take load off Stevenson. |
| **38** | **Stevenson, Rhamondre** | **6-0** | **230** | **3** | **Oklahoma** | **17/7** | **D4 21** | **D4 NE 21** | **Enjoyed breakout season as lead back, but wore down toward end of year.** |
| 35 | Strong Jr., Pierre | 5-11 | 205 | 2 | South Dakota State | 15/0/0/2 | D4 22 | D4 NE 22 | Enters his second season with a shot at being the team's third-down back. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **10** | **Jones, Mac** | **6-3** | **214** | **3** | **Alabama** | **14/14/0/3** | **D1 21** | **D1 NE 21** | **Hopes to rediscover all the qualities that made him excel as a rookie.** |
| | McSorley, Trace | 6-0 | 202 | 5 | Penn State | 6/1/6/5 | UFA,ARIZ 23 | D6 BLT 19 | Comes aboard as veteran replacement for Brian Hoyer, who was let go. |
| 4 | Zappe, Bailey | 6-1 | 220 | 2 | Western Kentucky | 4/2/10/3 | D4 22 | D4 NE 22 | Played well in relief of Jones and is expected to compete for starter's job. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 90 | Barmore, Christian (T) | 6-5 | 310 | 3 | Alabama | 10/3/0/3 | D2 21 | D2 NE 21 | A force on the interior of the defensive line when he's healthy. |
| 98 | Davis Jr., Carl (T) | 6-5 | 320 | 9 | Iowa | 16/2/0/1 | FA 20 | D3 BLT 15 | Typically the first tackle off the bench in running situations. |
| 95 | Ekuale, Daniel (T) | 6-3 | 305 | 5 | Washington State | 15/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA CLV 18 | Primarily utilized as a pass-rushing specialist. |
| **92** | **Godchaux, Davon (T)** | **6-3** | **311** | **7** | **Louisiana State** | **17/17** | **UFA,MIA 21** | **D5 MIA 17** | **Bill Belichick considers him one of the NFL's best defensive lineman.** |
| **93** | **Guy Sr., Lawrence (T)** | **6-4** | **315** | **13** | **Arizona State** | **14/14/0/3** | **UFA,BLT 17** | **D7 GB 11** | **Team's 2022 nominee for the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award.** |
| **9** | **Judon, Matthew (E)** | **6-3** | **261** | **8** | **Grand Valley State** | **17/15** | **D5 16** | **D5 BLT 16** | **Enjoyed one of his best seasons with a career high in sacks (15.5).** |
| 97 | Mitchell, DaMarcus (E) | 6-3 | 260 | 2 | Purdue | 16/0/0/1 | CFA 22 | CFA NE 22 | Primarily used on special teams. |
| 51 | *Perkins, Ronnie (E) | 6-3 | 253 | 3 | Oklahoma | 0/0/0/0 | D3 21 | D3 NE 21 | Hasn't shown much of anything in two seasons with the club. |
| 96 | Roberts, Sam (T) | 6-5 | 295 | 2 | Northwest Missouri State | 5/0/0/12 | D6 22 | D6 NE 22 | Sixth-round pick in 2022 saw minimal action. |
| | White, Kelon (T) | 6-5 | 285 | R | Georgia Tech | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 NE 23 | Georgia Tech rookie arrives as an explosive edge defender. |
| **91** | **Wise Jr., Deatrich (E)** | **6-6** | **285** | **7** | **Arkansas** | **17/16** | **D4 17** | **D4 NE 17** | **Has the versatility to play inside or out on the edge up front.** |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **8** | **Bentley, Ja'Whaun (I)** | **6-2** | **244** | **6** | **Purdue** | **17/17** | **D5 18** | **D5 NE 18** | **Team captain was one of the most consistent defensive players last season.** |
| | Board, Chris (O) | 6-2 | 239 | 6 | North Dakota State | 17/1 | UFA,DET 23 | CFA BLT 18 | Former Lion will primarily be used as a core special-teams player. |
| | Fatukasi, Olakunle (I) | 6-2 | 240 | 2 | Rutgers | 13/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA TB 22 | Signed a reserve/future contract with the team in January. |
| 58 | Jennings, Anfernee (O) | 6-3 | 259 | 4 | Alabama | 16/3/0/1 | D3 20 | D3 NE 20 | Backup linebacker had three starts in 16 games played. |
| | Mapu, Marte (O) | 6-3 | 216 | R | Sacramento State | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 NE 23 | Big Sky Conference Defensive Player of the Year in 2022. |
| 50 | McMillan, Raekwon (I) | 6-2 | 242 | 7 | Ohio State | 16/1/0/1 | UFA,LV 21 | D2 MIA 17 | Starting linebacker relegated to special teams and backup role late in year. |
| 43 | Munson, Calvin (O) | 6-1 | 235 | 5 | San Diego State | 1/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA NYG 17 | Spent most of last season on the practice squad. |
| **48** | **Tavai, Jahlani (I)** | **6-2** | **246** | **4** | **Hawaii** | **17/12** | **FA 21** | **D2 DET 19** | **Has the versatility to play out on the edge and inside the box.** |
| 55 | Uche, Josh (O) | 6-3 | 245 | 4 | Michigan | 15/0/0/2 | D2 20 | D2 NE 20 | Had a breakout season with a career-high 11.5 sacks. |
| 30 | Wilson Sr., Mack (O) | 6-1 | 233 | 5 | Alabama | 17/3 | T,CLV 22 | D5 CLV 19 | Used on defense early in the season, but then relegated to special teams. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | *Bledsoe, Joshuah (S) | 5-11 | 201 | 2 | Missouri | 3/0/0/14 | D6 21 | D6 NE 21 | Reserve safety appeared in only three games last season. |
| | Bolden, Isaiah (S) | 6-2 | 205 | R | Jackson State | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 NE 23 | Sixth-round pick out of Jackson State projects as developmental corner. |
| 27 | Bryant, Myles (CB) | 5-9 | 185 | 4 | Washington | 17/6 | FA 21 | CFA NE 20 | Played all 17 games as the team's starting slot corner. |
| 22 | *Davis, Cody (S) | 6-2 | 203 | 11 | Texas Tech | 6/0/0/0 | UFA,JAX 20 | CFA STL 13 | Special-teams stalwart suffered season-ending knee injury in October. |
| **23** | **Dugger, Kyle (S)** | **6-2** | **220** | **4** | **Lenoir-Rhyne** | **15/15/0/2** | **D2 20** | **D2 NE 20** | **Starting safety led the team with two pick-sixes last season.** |
| | **Gonzalez, Christian (CB)** | **6-2** | **201** | **R** | **Oregon** | **0/0** | **D1 23** | **D1 NE 23** | **Oregon corner was Patriots top pick, 17th overall, in the 2023 draft.** |
| 13 | *Jones, Jack (CB) | 5-11 | 175 | 2 | Arizona State | 13/2/0/2 | D4 22 | D4 NE 22 | As a rookie last year, notched a pick-six off Aaron Rodgers. |
| **31** | **Jones, Jonathan (CB)** | **5-10** | **190** | **8** | **Auburn** | **16/16/0/1** | **CFA 16** | **CFA NE 16** | **Versatile defensive back who can play in the slot, or out on boundary.** |
| **25** | **Jones, Marcus (CB)** | **5-8** | **175** | **2** | **Houston** | **15/4/0/2** | **D3 22** | **D3 NE 22** | **Explosive playmaker on defense, offense, and special teams.** |
| 2 | Mills, Jalen (CB) | 6-0 | 191 | 8 | Louisiana State | 10/10/0/7 | UFA,PHA 21 | D7 PHA 16 | Expected to switch from corner to safety to possibly replace Devin McCourty. |
| 3 | Peppers, Jabrill (S) | 5-11 | 215 | 7 | Michigan | 17/5 | UFA,NYG 22 | D1 CLV 17 | Tough, hard-hitting safety who packs a wallop in the secondary. |
| **21** | **Phillips, Adrian (S)** | **5-11** | **210** | **9** | **Texas** | **17/8** | **UFA,LAC 20** | **CFA SD 14** | **Veteran safety is a steadying influence in the defensive backfield.** |
| 41 | Schooler, Brenden (S) | 6-1 | 205 | 2 | Texas | 16/0/0/1 | CFA 22 | CFA NE 22 | Undrafted rookie led the team with 14 special-teams tackles. |
| | Speed, Ameer (CB) | 6-3 | 209 | R | Michigan State | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 NE 23 | Rookie sixth-round pick out of Michigan State projects as a special teamer. |
| 26 | Wade, Shaun (CB) | 6-1 | 191 | 3 | Ohio State | 3/0/3/11 | T,BLT 21 | D5 BLT 21 | Backup has appeared in three games in each of the last two seasons. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 46 | Addington, Tucker (LS) | 6-2 | 230 | R | Sam Houston State | 3/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA DALL 22 | Signed last season after Joe Cardona was hurt late in the year. |
| | Baringer, Bryce (P) | 6-3 | 215 | R | Michigan State | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 NE 23 | Rookie punter from Michigan State was a finalist for the Ray Guy Award. |
| 49 | *Cardona, Joe (LS) | 6-3 | 245 | 8 | Navy | 14/0/0/0 | D5 15 | D5 NE 15 | Patriots made him the highest-paid long snapper in the league. |
| 6 | Folk, Nick (K) | 6-1 | 222 | 15 | Arizona | 17/0 | FA 21 | D6 DALL 07 | Veteran kicker who has been extremely reliable from 50 yards in. |
| | Ryland, Chad (K) | 6-0 | 183 | R | Maryland | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 NE 23 | Fourth-round Maryland rookie will provide competition for Folk. |
| | Waitman, Corliss (P) | 6-2 | 210 | 2 | South Alabama | 17/0 | FA 23 | CFA PITT 20 | Brought in as possible replacement for Jake Bailey, who was released. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Lynn Bowden Jr. (3, Kentucky), Tre Nixon (1, Central Florida), Scotty Washington (1, Wake Forest); TE Matt Sokol (1, Michigan State); OL Bill Murray (1, William & Mary); RB J.J. Taylor (3, Arizona); DE Jeremiah Pharms Jr. (1, Friends); LB Terez Hall (3, Missouri); CB Quandre Mosely (1, Kentucky); S Brad Hawkins (1, Michigan); DB Rodney Randle (1, Lamar)

Matthew Slater
Photo by Eric Canha-USA TODAY Sports

Ty Montgomery, who spent all of last season on injured reserve, also might factor in as a third-down back.

RATING: 7.5

## RECEIVERS

The decision to sign JuJu Smith-Schuster in free agency instead of retaining Jakobi Meyers came down to Smith-Schuster's yards-after-catch ability. While he has yet to show he can thrive as a No. 1 receiver, he'll help the Patriots by creating yards on his own. DeVante Parker is their deep-ball, contested-catch threat. The hope is for Kendrick Bourne to have a bounce-back year and for burner Tyquan Thornton to break out after a disappointing rookie year. With respect to tight ends, Hunter Henry is hoping to be more involved with O'Brien at the helm. Swapping out Jonnu Smith for Mike Gesicki is a win for the Patriots. LSU rookie receiver Kayshon Boutte, who was considered a first-round talent prior to his final season due to an ankle injury and coachability concerns, is a bit of a sleeper arriving as a sixth-round pick. Defensive back Marcus Jones also occasionally moonlights with the offense.

RATING: 7

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Despite adding Riley Reiff and Calvin Anderson in free agency, the Patriots are still without a clear-cut starter opposite left tackle Trent Brown, as the team didn't draft a plug-and-play tackle for the right side. Reiff's last two teams, the Bears and Bengals, were in dire need of offensive line help and let him go anyway, indicating there isn't much left in the tank. Both Anderson and Conor McDermott are in the running for the swing tackle role. Meanwhile, they're good up the

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

**KEY ADDITION:**
**OC Bill O'Brien**
Bringing O'Brien in to be the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach should fix Mac Jones and the offense after last year's disaster with Matt Patricia and Joe Judge, who had no experience running an offense. O'Brien previously coached in the Patriots system.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**
T Calvin Anderson, LB Chris Board, TE Mike Gesicki, QB Trace McSorley, T Riley Reiff, RB James Robinson, WR JuJu Smith-Schuster, P Corliss Waitman

**KEY LOSS:**
**WR Jakobi Meyers (14/13)***
It was a toss-up with retired safety Devin McCourty, who has essentially been the quarterback of the defensive backfield the past 13 seasons. But Meyers was Mac Jones' go-to guy. He was the chain mover and team's leading receiver the past four seasons. Hard to replace that.

**OTHER LOSSES:**
WR Nelson Agholor (16/7), P Jake Bailey (9/0), T Marcus Cannon (5/4), **RB Damien Harris (11/9)**, CB Tae Hayes (7/0), QB Brian Hoyer (1/1), **S Devin McCourty (17/17)**, P Michael Palardy (8/0), TE Jonnu Smith (14/8), CB Joejuan Williams (0/0), T Isaiah Wynn (9/7)*
**Total games played/started lost: 111/66**

**STARTERS RETURNING**
19: 9 offense, 10 defense, kicker

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS

RHAMONDRE STEVENSON

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mac Jones | 442 | 288 | 2997 | 14 | 11 |
| Bailey Zappe | 92 | 65 | 781 | 5 | 3 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rhamondre Stevenson | 210 | 1040 | 5.0 | 5 |
| Damien Harris | 106 | 462 | 4.4 | 3 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jakobi Meyers | 67 | 804 | 12.0 | 6 |
| DeVante Parker | 31 | 539 | 17.4 | 3 |
| Hunter Henry | 41 | 509 | 12.4 | 2 |
| Kendrick Bourne | 35 | 434 | 12.4 | 1 |

**Kicking:** Folk 32/35 XPs, 32/37 FGs, 128 points
**Tackles:** Bentley 122, McCourty 71, Dugger 69
**Sacks:** Judon 15.5, Uche 11.5, Wise Jr. 7.5
**INTs:** Jones 4, McCourty 4, Dugger 3

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 314.6 | 26 |
| Passing Offense | 208.0 | 20 |
| Rushing Offense | 106.6 | 24 |
| Points | 21.4 | 17 |
| Sacked | 41 | 18 |
| 3rd Down % | 34.9 | 27 |
| **Defense** | | |
| Total Defense | 322.0 | 8 |
| Passing Defense | 216.5 | 16 |
| Rushing Defense | 105.5 | 6 |
| Points Allowed | 20.4 | T-10 |
| INTs | 19 | 3 |
| Sacks | 54 | T-3 |
| Turnover Diff. | +7 | T-4 |

middle with veteran David Andrews at center flanked by 2022 first-round pick Cole Strange on the left, and Michael Onwenu at right guard. They also added interior depth in the draft with guards Sidy Sow (Eastern Michigan) and Atonio Mafi (UCLA), and center Jake Andrews (Troy).

**RATING: 7.5**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Patriots' run defense finished in the top 10 last year. Davon Godchaux, who was given a two-year, $20.8 million contract extension last July, and veteran Lawrence Guy were a huge reason why. Christian Barmore, a second-round pick in 2021, has been plagued by injury in his first two seasons, but is a force when he's able to play. Carl Davis provides depth as the first nose tackle off the bench in running situations, while Daniel Ekuale is primarily a pass-rushing specialist.

**RATING: 7.5**

## LINEBACKERS

By re-signing Raekwon McMillan and Mack Wilson in free agency, the Patriots opted to run it back with their 2022 group. All four of their top inside linebackers have returned. Ja'Whaun Bentley is coming off a career year, during which he was the team's most consistent and arguably second-best defender in the latter half of the season. Jahlani Tavai splits his snaps between the edge and inside the box. Edge rushers Matthew Judon and Josh Uche are coming off career years, combining for 27 sacks. Deatrich Wise Jr. (7.5 sacks in 2022), a combo defensive end/linebacker, also factors into the pass rush, while the Patriots added Georgia Tech defensive end Keion White in the draft to provide depth along with Anfernee Jennings.

**RATING: 7.5**

## SECONDARY

Safety Devin McCourty, who was the longtime quarterback of the secondary, retired after 13 seasons. The Patriots restored some of the depth lost when Jalen Mills agreed to restructure his deal and move back to safety. Kyle Dugger, Adrian Phillips and Jabrill Peppers are primarily box safeties. By the looks of it, Mills is the favorite to inherit McCourty's former role at free safety although Dugger might also factor in.

In terms of corners, the Patriots used their first-round pick on cornerback Christian Gonzalez, who projects to be a starter. Beyond Gonzalez, Jonathan Jones was re-signed to a two-year deal and has the versatility to play out on the boundary, in the slot, or any of the safety positions. Marcus Jones looks to be the team's next long-term nickel back, while Jack Jones projects as a No. 2 corner.

**RATING: 7**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Nick Folk will have to fight off some legitimate competition in training camp with the Patriots drafting kicker Chad Ryland, who boasts one of the strongest legs in the rookie class. While the Patriots signed punter Corliss Waitman, they also selected arguably the best punter in the 2023 rookie class in Michigan State's Bryce Baringer. Meanwhile, Joe Cardona returns after becoming the highest-paid long snapper in the league. Marcus Jones proved to be a capable returner last season. The Patriots also added speedy returners Demario Douglas and Isaiah Bolden in the draft. So there will be plenty of competition.

**RATING: 7.5**

## INTANGIBLES

Motivation might be the team's best intangible in 2023. There's motivation to stay out of the AFC East basement, with the perennial cellar-dwelling Jets adding Aaron Rodgers. There's motivation for Belichick to get closer to Don Shula's mark, and also prevent owner Robert Kraft from letting him go before that happens. And, there's motivation for quarterback Mac Jones to prove last year wasn't a true barometer of his future.

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Karen Guregian

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Added tight end usage. During his first go-round with the Patriots, Bill O'Brien had his offense flow through tight ends Rob Gronkowski and Aaron Hernandez. So expect more involvement from Hunter Henry, who was barely used as a pass-catcher last season, and newcomer Mike Gesicki.

2. More of Marcus Jones. Whether returning punts for touchdowns, playing defense, or catching passes on offense and taking them to the house, Jones proved to be an electric playmaker as a rookie. The Patriots will try to utilize him even more this season.

3. Jalen Mills moving to safety. With Devin McCourty retiring after 13 seasons, the Patriots need a new free safety to roam the defensive backfield. The expectation is for Mills to move from corner to safety and assume McCourty's role.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 8-9**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | at Miami | 7-20 |
| Sept. 18 | at Pittsburgh | 17-14 |
| Sept. 25 | BALTIMORE | 26-37 |
| Oct. 2 | at Green Bay (OT) | 24-27 |
| Oct. 9 | DETROIT | 29-0 |
| Oct. 16 | at Cleveland | 38-15 |
| Oct. 24 | CHICAGO | 14-33 |
| Oct. 30 | at N.Y. Jets | 22-17 |
| Nov. 6 | INDIANAPOLIS | 26-3 |
| Nov. 20 | N.Y. JETS | 10-3 |
| Nov. 24 | at Minnesota | 26-33 |
| Dec. 1 | BUFFALO | 10-24 |
| Dec. 12 | at Arizona | 27-13 |
| Dec. 18 | at Las Vegas | 24-30 |
| Dec. 24 | CINCINNATI | 18-22 |
| Jan. 1 | MIAMI | 23-21 |
| Jan. 8 | at Buffalo | 23-35 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Eastern**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10 | HOUSTON (Thu) | TBD |
| Aug. 17-21 | at Green Bay | TBD |
| Aug. 24-27 | at Tennessee | TBD |
| | | |
| Sept. 10 | PHILADELPHIA | 4:25 |
| Sept. 17 | MIAMI | 8:20 |
| Sept. 24 | at N.Y. Jets | 1:00 |
| Oct. 1 | at Dallas | 4:25 |
| Oct. 8 | NEW ORLEANS | 1:00 |
| Oct. 15 | at Las Vegas | 4:05 |
| Oct. 22 | BUFFALO | 1:00 |
| Oct. 29 | at Miami | 1:00 |
| Nov. 5 | WASHINGTON | 1:00 |
| Nov. 12 | Indianapolis (Germany) | 9:30 |
| | BYE | |
| Nov. 26 | at N.Y. Giants | 1:00 |
| Dec. 3 | L.A. CHARGERS | 1:00 |
| Dec. 7 | at Pittsburgh (Thu) | 8:15 |
| Dec. 18 | KANSAS CITY (Mon) | 8:15 |
| Dec. 24 | at Denver | 8:15 |
| Dec. 31 | at Buffalo | 1:00 |
| TBD | N.Y. JETS | TBD |

# NEW YORK JETS

## Tough Schedule Awaits Rodgers

The Jets have missed the playoffs 12 straight years, now the longest current streak in professional sports.

Quarterback instability contributed heavily to this dubious streak, so the team's 75-year-old owner Woody Johnson gave the team's football brass an edict to get a legit answer and they answered the call by trading for Packers legend Aaron Rodgers.

Rodgers will reunite with one of his favorite coaches, Nathaniel Hackett, who was his offensive coordinator in Green Bay from 2019-21. Rodgers won league MVPs in Hackett's last two years in Green Bay, but the future Hall-of-Famer had a pedestrian year last season when Hackett left to coach the Denver Broncos.

"I'm excited to be reunited with him," Rodgers said.

He's also excited to reunite with former Green Bay receiver Allen Lazard, who the Jets signed as a free agent. Lazard joins a strong receiver group spearheaded by Garrett Wilson.

Defensively, they improved a great deal in 2022 from the previous year, but still have a lot of things to improve upon, like setting the edge better against the run.

Adding talented edge rusher Will McDonald in the 2023 first round should make the Jets a potential nightmare for opposing quarterbacks.

And it's not just because McDonald joins an already talented pass-rushing front, but because of the addition of Rodgers.

"With Aaron (Rodgers) here, hopefully we're playing with a few more leads and we got a guy (McDonald) that can close the door on some offenses and get to the quarterback," Jets head coach Robert Saleh said.

**Sauce Gardner**

Photo by Michael Owens via AP

**4**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 7-10

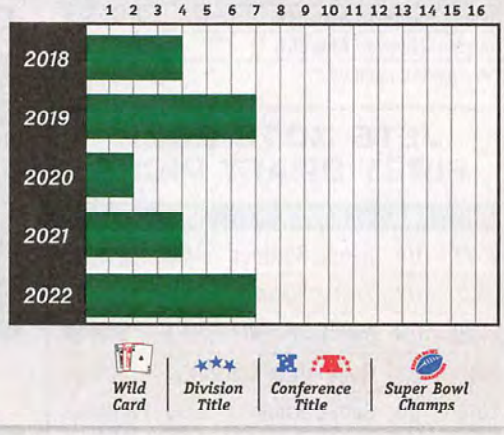
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 2-4

**STADIUM:** MetLife Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 82,500

**SURFACE:** FieldTurf Core

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

**ONE JETS DRIVE**
**FLORHAM PARK, NJ 07932**
**973-549-4800**
**WWW.NEWYORKJETS.COM**

**TRAINING CAMP:** Atlantic Health Jets Training Center, Florham Park, NJ
**HEAD COACH:** Robert Saleh
·3rd season as Jets/NFL head coach
· 11-23 overall
**CHAIRMAN:** Robert Wood Johnson
**VICE CHAIRMAN:** Christopher W. Johnson
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Joe Douglas
**ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER:** Rex Hogan
**DIR. PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Chad Alexander
**DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Jon Carr
**DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:** Greg Nejmeh
**SENIOR FOOTBALL ADVISOR:** Phil Savage

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nathaniel Hackett | Offensive coordinator | 15 | 1 |
| Todd Downing | Pass game coordinator | 23 | 1 |
| Rob Calabrese | Quarterbacks | 5 | 3 |
| Keith Carter | *Offensive line | 11 | 1 |
| Ben Wilkerson | Assistant line | 9 | 2 |
| Taylor Embree | Running backs | 7 | 3 |
| Zach Azzanni | Receivers | 7 | 1 |
| Ron Middleton | Tight ends | 14 | 3 |
| Billy VandeMerkt | Offensive assistant | 3 | 3 |
| Mack Brown | Offensive assistant | 5 | 5 |
| Junior Taylor | Off. Asst./fellowship | 2 | 1 |
| Jeff Ulbrich | Defensive coordinator | 11 | 3 |
| Aaron Whitecotton | Defensive line | 11 | 3 |
| Shaq Wilson | Assistant line | 1 | 1 |
| Mike Rutenberg | Linebackers | 14 | 3 |
| Marquand Manuel | Def. backs/safeties | 11 | 3 |
| Ricky Manning Jr. | Nickel backs | 5 | 3 |
| Tony Oden | Sr. def. assistant/CBs | 20 | 3 |
| Nathaniel Willingham | Defensive assistant | 5 | 2 |
| Pat Bastien | Defensive assistant | 2 | 2 |
| Brant Boyer | Special teams coord. | 12 | 8 |
| Leon Washington | Special teams asst. | 5 | 3 |
| Michael Ghobrial | Special teams asst. | 3 | 3 |
| Mike Nicolini | Head S&C | 6 | 3 |
| Dr. Omar Ahmad | Asst. S&C | 3 | 3 |
| Thomas Myslinski | Asst. S&C | 3 | 3 |
| Forrest Hightower | Asst. S&C | 3 | 3 |

* Run game coordinator

## JETS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/4 | Sauce Gardner | CB | Starter |
| 2021 | 1/2 | Zach Wilson | QB | Backup |
| 2020 | 1/11 | Mekhi Becton | T | Starter |
| 2019 | 1/3 | Quinnen Williams | NT | Starter |
| 2018 | 1/3 | Sam Darnold | QB | Panthers |

## COACHING

Saleh enters his third year as head coach after going 11–23 in his first two seasons. Saleh had the Jets headed in the right direction last season, getting off to a 7-4 start, but lost their last six, and this led to some staff changes, including the team parting ways with offensive coordinator Mike LaFleur and offensive line coach John Benton.

LaFleur was replaced by Nathaniel Hackett, who runs a similar offense to what the Jets were running, so the offensive players won't have to learn an entirely new playbook.

Defensive coordinator Jeff Ulbrich returns for his third season. Ulbrich's unit improved last year from his first one with the Jets, and played with the toughness he did as a player, but they must figure out a way to become more consistent against the run.

Brant Boyer returns for his eighth season as Jets special-teams coordinator under his third head coach so he clearly knows what he's doing with the right personnel.

**RATING: 7**

## QUARTERBACKS

Aaron Rodgers will be the quarterback this year and perhaps beyond.

"This isn't like a one-and-done in my mind," Rodgers said.

Are the Jets concerned that Rodgers is coming off a pedestrian season in Green Bay, throwing 12 picks, the most by him in a decade?

"He's not very far removed from back-to-back MVPs (2020-21)," said general manager Joe Douglas. "Maybe didn't play at 100 percent throughout (last) year."

After Week 5 last season, Rodgers played with an avulsion fracture in his right thumb, and it impacted certain throws and led to some "wobblers" as he put it. It's now healed.

"It's fully healthy," Rodgers said in April. "I didn't get surgery and I'm feeling great."

The Jets expect a healthy Rodgers to lead them to the playoffs this season.

The backup will be either Tim Boyle or Zach Wilson. Boyle is a former teammate of Rodgers in Green Bay and Wilson is the second pick overall in 2021 who the Jets would like to redshirt this year to fix his throwing mechanics.

**RATING: 8.5**

## RUNNING BACKS

Breece Hall was rolling last year as a rookie before tearing his ACL and meniscus in Week 7. He not only flashed as a runner, but as a receiver. As a runner, he has the ability to plow through arm tackles with power, but also run away from people with his 4.39 speed. The

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

We all know about the arrival of QB Aaron Rodgers on Broadway and some of the new toys brought in for the passing attack. The free-agent additions of proven wideouts such as Allen Lazard and Mecole Hardman certainly boosts the offensive firepower. However, a big part of the four-time NFL MVP success at his new destination will be dependent upon a reliable ground attack. The Jets have assembled their own edition of Earth, Wind and Fire with a three-headed running back rotation that features various styles. Former second round pick **Breece Hall** is expected to assume lead-back duties, but we saw him deal with various ailments and he was placed on reserve/injured Oct. 25. When healthy, he is able to run it inside, outside, in addition to being a very effective receiver out of the backfield. With change-of-pace runner **Michael Carter** in the fold, along with **Zonovan Knight** who can pound the rock between the tackles, New York has accumulated fantastic backfield depth. Each runner totaled at least 80 carries a year ago. Look for more of the same from the talented trio, which could turn out to be the secret ingredient toward the Jets' championship aspirations.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

**JERMAINE JOHNSON**

It's not that he's in danger of being cut, but with the addition of 2023 first-round defensive end Will McDonald, if Johnson doesn't start making more of a splash as a pass rusher, he could lose playing time to Campbell and Bryce Huff.

The Jets traded back into the 2022 first round to select Johnson, sending the 35th, 69th and 163rd picks to the Titans for the 26th and 101st picks, and they need to get more of that investment back moving forward.

Johnson needs to set a harder edge against the run and must become more skillful with his hands to shed blocks more consistently as a pass rusher.

Garrett Wilson
Photo by AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell

Jets expect him to be ready for Week 1.

Michael Carter is a good change-of-pace back with his powerful, thick legs and low center of gravity at 5-foot-8, leading to a lot of broken tackles running under the pad level of defenders.

Bam Knight gives the Jets quality depth and is a good scheme fit with his one-cut running style. With Ty Johnson waived, the Jets needed another runner and drafted home-run hitter Izzy Abanikanda.

**RATING: 7**

## RECEIVERS

The Jets traded disgruntled Elijah Moore to the Browns, but still have plenty of talent for Rodgers in their receiving room. Leading the way is Garrett Wilson, a 2022 first-round pick, who won the NFL's Offensive Rookie of the Year Award last year, after an 83-catch initial campaign despite the merry-go-round at quarterback.

Free-agent addition Allen Lazard, a Rodgers supporter from Green Bay, will give the Jets a major red-zone target who excels on 50-50 balls. Rodgers favorite Randall Cobb was also signed. Former Chief Mecole Hardman provides the Jets with a receiver with world-class speed, who is also good on jet sweeps and bubble screens.

The tight-end room includes Tyler Conklin, who had a very good first year in green as a pass-catcher, and massive C.J. Uzomah, who is a very good in-line blocker and underrated receiver. The Jets expect a big jump from 2022 third-round pick Jeremy Ruckert in Year 2.

**RATING: 7.5**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Jets are in good shape on the interior with center Connor McGovern to go along with guards Alijah Vera-Tucker and Laken Tomlinson. They also have 2023 second-round pick Joe Tippmann to serve as the heir apparent at center and to act as the interior swingman.

The tackle situation has more question

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

**KEY ADDITION:**
**QB Aaron Rodgers**
The four-time NFL MVP and 10-time Pro Bowler instantly will make the Jets more relevant and a playoff contender, and he's very motivated to prove the Packers wrong.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**
QB Tim Boyle, S Chuck Clark, WR Randall Cobb, C Trystan Colon, WR Mecole Hardman, DL Quinton Jefferson, WR Allen Lazard, P Thomas Morstead, G Wes Schweitzer, T Billy Turner

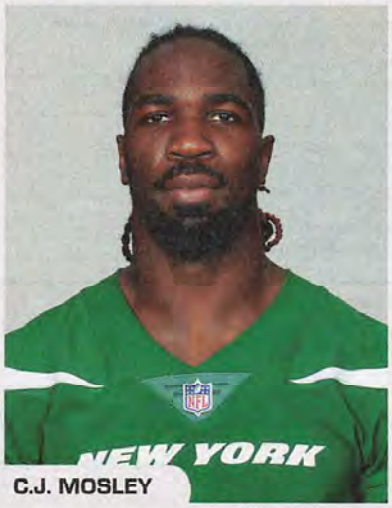
**KEY LOSS:**
**QB Mike White (4/4)***
While the Jets solved the quarterback position for a year or two with Rodgers, they lost White to Miami, who looks like he can be a good starter.

**OTHER LOSSES:**
WR Rodney Adams (0/0), **LB Kwon Alexander (17/12)**, WR Braxton Berrios (17/2), DE Vinny Curry (11/0), G Laurent Duvernay-Tardif (5/1), T George Fant (8/7), G/T Dan Feeney (17/2), QB Joe Flacco (5/4), **C/G Nate Herbig (11/11)**, RB Ty Johnson (17/1), **S Lamarcus Joyner (14/14)**, P Braden Mann (17/0), **WR Elijah Moore (16/9), DT Sheldon Rankins (15/15)**, T Mike Remmers (8/1), RB James Robinson (4/0), G Dru Samia (0/0), DT Nathan Shepherd (17/3), WR Jeff Smith (11/0)*
**Total games played/started lost: 214/86**

**STARTERS RETURNING**
17: 9 offense, 8 defense, kicker

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS



C.J. MOSLEY

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Zach Wilson | 242 | 132 | 1688 | 6 | 7 |
| Mike White | 175 | 103 | 1192 | 3 | 4 |
| Joe Flacco | 191 | 110 | 1051 | 5 | 3 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Breece Hall | 80 | 463 | 5.8 | 4 |
| Michael Carter | 114 | 402 | 3.5 | 3 |
| Zonovan Knight | 85 | 300 | 3.5 | 1 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Garrett Wilson | 83 | 1103 | 13.3 | 4 |
| Tyler Conklin | 58 | 552 | 9.5 | 3 |
| Corey Davis | 32 | 536 | 16.8 | 2 |

**Kicking:** Zuerlein 28/29 XPs, 30/37 FGs, 118 points
**Tackles:** Mosley 151, Quincy Williams 96, Whitehead 85
**Sacks:** Williams 12, Lawson 7, Franklin-Myers 5
**INTs:** Joyner 3, three tied with 2

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 318.2 | 25 |
| Passing Offense | 219.0 | 15 |
| Rushing Offense | 99.2 | T-25 |
| Points | 17.4 | 29 |
| Sacked | 42 | 19 |
| 3rd Down % | 34.6 | 28 |
| | | |
| Defense | | |
| Total Defense | 311.1 | 4 |
| Passing Defense | 189.4 | 3 |
| Rushing Defense | 121.6 | T-16 |
| Points Allowed | 18.6 | 4 |
| INTs | 12 | T-19 |
| Sacks | 45 | T-7 |
| Turnover Diff. | -7 | T-28 |

# JETS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Charles, Irvin | 6-4 | 219 | 1 | Indiana, Pa. | 0/0/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA NYJ 22 | Practice-squadder last year with a huge catching radius. |
| 18 | Cobb, Randall | 5-10 | 192 | 12 | Kentucky | 13/3/0/0 | FA 23 | D2 GB 11 | 32-year-old slot who's had issues staying healthy in recent years. |
| 83 | Conklin, Tyler (TE) | 6-3 | 248 | 6 | Central Michigan | 17/16 | UFA,MINN 22 | D5 MINN 18 | Mobile TE who's good on contested balls and run after catch. |
| **84** | **Davis, Corey** | **6-3** | **209** | **7** | **Western Michigan** | **13/10/0/4** | **UFA,TENN 21** | **D1 TENN 17** | **A solid pro who's a good route-runner and run blocker.** |
| 6 | *Hardman, Mecole | 5-10 | 187 | 5 | Georgia | 8/5/0/2 | UFA,KC 23 | D2 KC 19 | Rodgers favorite who excels on 50-50 jump balls. |
| 81 | Kuntz, Zack (TE) | 6-8 | 251 | R | Old Dominion | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 NYJ 23 | 6-8, 251 pounds with 4.55 speed and 40-inch vertical. |
| **10** | **Lazard, Allen** | **6-5** | **227** | **5** | **Iowa State** | **15/15/0/2** | **UFA,GB 23** | **CFA JAX 18** | **Speedy WR signed to replace Elijah Moore.** |
| 11 | Mims, Denzel | 6-3 | 207 | 4 | Baylor | 10/4/0/7 | D2 20 | D2 NYJ 20 | Good size/speed ratio; receiver depth has limited playing time. |
| 89 | Ruckert, Jeremy (TE) | 6-5 | 250 | 2 | Ohio State | 9/0/0/8 | D3 22 | D3 NYJ 22 | Redshirted last year coming off a foot injury. |
| **87** | **Uzomah, C.J. (TE)** | **6-6** | **260** | **9** | **Auburn** | **15/13/0/2** | **UFA,CIN 22** | **D5 CIN 15** | **He's like having extra lineman as a blocker.** |
| **17** | **Wilson, Garrett** | **6-0** | **183** | **2** | **Ohio State** | **17/12** | **D1 22** | **D1 NYJ 22** | **Elite talent with great speed and run-after-the-catch ability.** |
| 88 | Yeboah, Kenny (TE) | 6-4 | 250 | 3 | Mississippi | 10/0/0/2 | FA 22 | CFA NYJ 21 | Mobile TE who's improved his blocking last two years. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **77** | ***Becton, Mekhi (RT)** | **6-7** | **363** | **4** | **Louisville** | **0/0/0/0** | **D1 20** | **D1 NYJ 20** | **Dominating run blocker who needs to improve pass pro.** |
| **76** | ***Brown, Duane (LT)** | **6-4** | **315** | **16** | **Virginia Tech** | **12/12/0/0** | **FA 22** | **D1 HOUS 08** | **A true pro who played last year with a torn rotator cuff.** |
| 65 | Colon, Trystan (C) | 6-3 | 320 | 4 | Missouri | 6/1/10/1 | FA 23 | CFA BLT 20 | Solid interior backup limited a little by short arms. |
| **60** | **McGovern, Connor (C)** | **6-4** | **306** | **8** | **Missouri** | **17/17** | **UFA,DEN 20** | **D5 DEN 16** | **Durable, tough and good zone-scheme fit for Jets.** |
| 61 | *Mitchell, Max (T) | 6-6 | 307 | 2 | Louisiana | 6/5/0/0 | D4 22 | D4 NYJ 22 | Started some at right tackle last year, but likely backup swing. |
| 70 | Ogbuehi, Cedric (T) | 6-5 | 308 | 9 | Texas A&M | 2/2/1/0 | FA 22 | D1 CIN 15 | Former Bengals first-rounder now on his seventh team. |
| 62 | Pankey, Adam (G/T) | 6-5 | 307 | 4 | West Virginia | 0/0/1/0 | FA 23 | CFA GB 17 | Helping his chances was a stint with Rodgers in Green Bay. |
| 71 | *Schweitzer, Wes (G) | 6-4 | 300 | 8 | San Jose State | 7/6/0/1 | UFA,WSH 23 | D6 ATL 16 | Limited athlete who makes up for it with a brilliant mind. |
| 68 | *Senat, Greg (T) | 6-6 | 305 | 4 | Wagner | 0/0/0/0 | FA 22 | D6 BLT 18 | Athletic former college hoopster who was on IR last year. |
| 69 | Smith, Eric (T/G) | 6-4 | 308 | 3 | Virginia | 0/0/1/0 | FA 22 | CFA MIA 17 | A battler who's been signed 10 different times around the NFL. |
| 66 | Tippmann, Joe (C) | 6-6 | 320 | R | Wisconsin | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 NYJ 23 | A rare 6-6 center who's a good fit for the Jets' zone scheme. |
| **78** | **Tomlinson, Laken (LG)** | **6-3** | **315** | **9** | **Duke** | **17/17** | **UFA,SF 22** | **D1 DET 15** | **Got big money last year, but was a little up and down.** |
| 54 | Turner, Billy (T) | 6-5 | 310 | 10 | North Dakota State | 8/7/1/4 | FA 23 | D3 MIA 14 | Former Rodgers Packers teammate signed after the draft for depth. |
| **75** | ***Vera-Tucker, Alijah (RG)** | **6-5** | **308** | **3** | **Southern Cal** | **7/7/0/0** | **D1 21** | **D1 NYJ 21** | **Landed on IR (arm) in Week 7 and was greatly missed.** |
| 67 | Warren, Carter (T) | 6-5 | 325 | R | Pittsburgh | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 NYJ 23 | Potential backup swing tackle with an enormous wingspan. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | Abanikanda, Israel | 5-10 | 216 | R | Pittsburgh | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 NYJ 23 | Explosive back who ran under 4.4 and had 41-inch vertical. |
| 48 | *Bawden, Nick (FB) | 6-2 | 245 | 4 | San Diego State | 0/0/0/0 | FA 21 | D7 DET 18 | A pulverizing lead blocker with little regard for his body. |
| 32 | Carter, Michael (RS) | 5-8 | 201 | 3 | North Carolina | 16/10/0/1 | D4 21 | D4 NYJ 21 | Terrific change-of-pace back who breaks a lot of arm tackles. |
| **20** | ***Hall, Breece** | **5-11** | **217** | **2** | **Iowa State** | **7/2/0/0** | **D2 22** | **D2 NYJ 22** | **Looked like a potential NFL star as a rookie before blowing out knee.** |
| 27 | Knight, Zonovan | 5-11 | 209 | 2 | North Carolina State | 7/4/0/3 | FA 22 | CFA NYJ 22 | Undrafted free-agent steal last year who is a terrific one-cut runner. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Boyle, Tim | 6-4 | 234 | 5 | Eastern Kentucky | 1/0/0/4 | UFA,CHI 23 | CFA GB 18 | Former Packer who Aaron Rodgers says is like "a little brother." |
| **8** | **Rodgers, Aaron** | **6-2** | **225** | **19** | **California** | **17/17** | **T,GB 23** | **D1 GB 05** | **Four-time MVP highly motivated to prove he's still got game.** |
| 15 | Streveler, Chris | 6-1 | 216 | 3 | South Dakota | 2/1/0/1 | FA 23 | FA ARIZ 20 | Tough running quarterback who breaks tackles and can cover kicks. |
| 2 | Wilson, Zach | 6-2 | 214 | 3 | Brigham Young | 9/9/1/7 | D1 21 | D1 NYJ 21 | Taking a step back with him to fix his footwork and accuracy. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 50 | Anae, Bradley (E) | 6-3 | 260 | 3 | Utah | 0/0/0/1 | FA 22 | D5 DALL 20 | Underrated edge who had 13 sacks final year at Utah. |
| 72 | Clemons, Micheal (E) | 6-5 | 263 | 2 | Texas A&M | 16/0/0/1 | D4 22 | D4 NYJ 22 | Great motor and strength, but some athletic stiffness. |
| **91** | **Franklin-Myers, John (T)** | **6-4** | **288** | **5** | **Stephen F. Austin** | **17/17** | **W,LAR 19** | **D4 LAR 18** | **Versatility and a contributor who moves all over the line.** |
| 47 | Huff, Bryce (E) | 6-3 | 255 | 4 | Memphis | 14/0/0/3 | CFA 20 | CFA NYJ 20 | Flexible edge who is the best Jet at bending the corner. |
| 93 | Jefferson, Quinton (T) | 6-4 | 291 | 7 | Maryland | 17/3 | FA 23 | D5 SEA 16 | Journeyman who can help the Jets interior run defense. |
| **52** | **Johnson II, Jermaine (E)** | **6-5** | **254** | **2** | **Florida State** | **14/0/0/3** | **D1 22** | **D1 NYJ 22** | **Athletic end who must learn to shed blocks better.** |
| **58** | **Lawson, Carl (E)** | **6-2** | **265** | **7** | **Auburn** | **17/17** | **UFA,CIN 21** | **D4 CIN 17** | **Doesn't get a ton of sacks, but wrecks a lot of pockets.** |
| 97 | Mack, Isaiah (T) | 6-1 | 299 | 3 | Chattanooga | 2/0/0/2 | W,SEA 23 | CFA TENN 19 | Well-travelled young journeyman on team No. 7. |
| 99 | McDonald IV, Will (E) | 6-4 | 236 | R | Iowa State | 0/0 | D1 23 | D1 NYJ 23 | First-round edge-rusher with nice bend to take the edge. |
| 79 | Smart, Tanzel (T) | 6-1 | 295 | 4 | Tulane | 3/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D6 LAR 17 | Undersized 3-technique who wins with motor/quickness. |
| 94 | Thomas, Solomon (E) | 6-3 | 295 | 7 | Stanford | 17/0 | UFA,LV 22 | D1 SF 17 | Perfect guy to come in to spell the starting tackles. |
| **95** | **Williams, Quinnen (T)** | **6-3** | **303** | **4** | **Alabama** | **16/16/0/1** | **D1 19** | **D1 NYJ 19** | **Superb interior rusher who must improve run defense.** |
| | Woods, Al (T) | 6-3 | 330 | 13 | Louisiana State | 14/14/0/3 | FA 23 | D4 NO 10 | Fills the Jets need for a big-bodied run-stuffer inside. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 53 | Barnes, Zaire (O) | 6-1 | 227 | R | Western Michigan | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 NYJ 23 | Could help the Jets with tight-end coverage and on special teams. |
| 45 | Nasirildeen, Hamsah (M) | 6-3 | 215 | 3 | Florida State | 7/0/0/0 | FA 22 | D6 NYJ 21 | Former college defensive back who Jets hope can help tight-end coverage. |
| **57** | **Mosley, C.J. (M)** | **6-2** | **231** | **8** | **Alabama** | **17/17** | **UFA,BLT 19** | **D1 BLT 14** | **The leader of the Jets' defense who gets everybody lined up.** |
| **44** | **Sherwood, Jamien (O)** | **6-2** | **216** | **3** | **Auburn** | **17/0** | **D5 21** | **D5 NYJ 21** | **Smart, tough instinctive backup who could emerge this year.** |
| **56** | **Williams, Quincy (O)** | **5-11** | **230** | **5** | **Murray State** | **15/15/0/2** | **W,JAX 21** | **D3 JAX 19** | **Heat-seeking missile as a hitter who must improve in coverage.** |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | Adams, Tony (S) | 5-11 | 203 | 2 | Illinois | 11/1/0/6 | CFA 22 | CFA NYJ 22 | Undrafted free agent in 2022 who started a game late last season. |
| 29 | Bernard-Converse, Jarrick (CB) | 6-1 | 205 | R | Louisiana State | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 NYJ 23 | Has experience after starting 56 college games. |
| 30 | Carter II, Michael (CB) | 5-10 | 184 | 3 | Duke | 17/6 | D5 21 | D5 NYJ 21 | Has turned into a solid nickel for the Jets. |
| **23** | **Clark, Chuck (S)** | **6-0** | **209** | **7** | **Virginia Tech** | **17/17** | **T,BLT 23** | **D6 BLT 17** | **Steady, durable former Raven who should start.** |
| 21 | Davis, Ashtyn (S) | 6-1 | 202 | 4 | California | 14/0/0/3 | D3 20 | D3 NYJ 20 | Make-or-break year for this speedy safety. |
| 26 | *Echols, Brandin (CB) | 5-10 | 179 | 3 | Kentucky | 13/0/0/3 | D6 21 | D6 NYJ 21 | Speedy, physical sub-package corner. |
| **1** | **Gardner, Sauce (CB)** | **6-3** | **190** | **2** | **Cincinnati** | **17/17** | **D1 22** | **D1 NYJ 22** | **Nice combo of size, speed and loose hips.** |
| 37 | Hall, Bryce (CB) | 6-1 | 202 | 4 | Virginia | 5/0/0/12 | D5 20 | D5 NYJ 20 | 2021 starter who backed up Gardner last year. |
| 34 | Hardee Sr., Justin (CB) | 6-1 | 200 | 7 | Illinois | 17/0 | UFA,NORL 21 | CFA HOUS 17 | The Jets' best special-teams cover guy. |
| 39 | Parks, Will (S) | 6-0 | 200 | 8 | Arizona | 14/3/0/1 | FA 22 | D6 DEN 16 | A backup box safety and core special teamer. |
| **4** | **Reed Jr., D.J. (CB)** | **5-9** | **193** | **6** | **Kansas State** | **17/17** | **UFA,SEA 22** | **D5 SF 18** | **Formed a dynamic duo with Gardner last year.** |
| **3** | **Whitehead, Jordan (S)** | **5-10** | **198** | **6** | **Pittsburgh** | **17/17** | **UFA,TB 22** | **D4 TB 18** | **Big hitter with some coverage inconsistency.** |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 42 | Hennessy, Thomas (LS) | 6-2 | 246 | 7 | Duke | 17/0 | T,IND 17 | CFA IND 17 | One of the NFL's best just got a four-year contract extension. |
| 5 | Morstead, Thomas (P) | 6-4 | 235 | 14 | Southern Methodist | 17/0 | UFA,MIA 23 | D5 NORL 09 | Jets going with a savvy vet to stabilize punting spot. |
| 9 | Zuerlein, Greg (K) | 6-0 | 195 | 12 | Missouri Western | 17/0 | FA 22 | D6 STL 12 | "Legatron" shined in his first season with the Jets last year. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Jason Brownlee (Southern Mississippi), Xavier Gipson (Stephen F. Austin), T.J. Luther (Gardner-Webb), Diontae Spencer (4, McNeese State), Malik Taylor (3, Ferris State); TE E.J. Jenkins (Georgia Tech); Gs Chris Glaser (1, Virginia), Brent Laing (Minnesota-Duluth); RB Travis Dye (Southern Cal); DEs Deslin Alexander (Pittsburgh); Marquiss Spencer (1, Mississippi State); LBs Claude Cherelus (Alcorn State), Maalik Hall (Southeastern Oklahoma), Caleb Johnson (Miami); Chazz Surratt (2, North Carolina); CBs Craig James (2, Southern Illinois), Derrick Langford (Washington State); Jimmy Moreland (4, James Madison); Ss Trey Dean (Florida), Marquis Waters (Texas Tech)

marks considering the top three returning players are all coming off medical issues. Left tackle Duane Brown had offseason rotator cuff surgery and will turn 38 in August. Right tackle Mekhi Becton played in only one game in the last two years after suffering knee injuries. Backup swing tackle Max Mitchell was shut down last season due to a blood-clot issue. The Jets added solid journeyman Billy Turner as insurance. Turner played in Green Bay with Rodgers from 2019-21.

**RATING: 7**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

This is a talented pass-rushing line that must improve against the run. And their pass rush got even better with the addition of Iowa State edge Will McDonald in the first round. He's got great flexibility to bend the edge to go with the wingspan of an aircraft carrier.

McDonald joins a talented group up front including ends Carl Lawson, Bryce Huff and John Franklin-Myers, to go along with defensive tackle Quinnen Williams, one of the league's best interior pass rushers.

But the defensive tackles must shed blocks better against the run, and defensive ends must set a hard edge more consistently.

**RATING: 7**

## LINEBACKERS

This area was decent last year, but some improvements are needed. There is no questioning the toughness and hitting ability of this group. The unit is loaded with a bunch of unflinching tacklers.

However, they must improve in pass coverage because last season opposing tight ends gave the linebackers fits. Perhaps draft pick Zaire Barnes can help in this area.

The returning starters are team captain C.J. Mosley, a great leader, and heat-seeking missile Quincy Williams, the brother of defensive tackle Quinnen Williams. A player they expect to emerge this year is instinctive third-year player Jamien Sherwood, a converted college safety.

**RATING: 7**

## SECONDARY

The Jets are in great shape at outside corner with the combination of veteran D.J. Reed and Defensive Rookie of the Year Sauce Gardner, who had two picks and 20 passes defended last year. Former starter Bryce Hall provides quality depth.

Nickel back Michael Carter is solid, but will likely face a challenge for his job from Brandon Echols. At safety, they traded with Baltimore for Chuck Clark to replace Lamarcus Joyner, who is a free agent. The other starter will likely be Jordan Whitehead, a big-time thumper who must improve his coverage consistency. A couple of speedy young safeties, Tony Adams and Ashtyn Davis, who have started games for the Jets, are also in the mix.

**RATING: 7.5**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Jets should be in good shape with consistent veterans, kicker Greg Zuerlein and punter Thomas Morstead handling those jobs. "Greg the Leg" was superb last year connecting on 30 of 37 field-goals attempts, including six from 50-plus yards. Morstead replaces Braden Mann, who handled the job the last three years, but was inconsistent.

The Jets released kickoff and punt returner Braxton Berrios after he refused to take a pay cut. The former Pro Bowler could be replaced on punts by Mecole Hardman and kicks by running backs Bam Knight and Michael Carter.

**RATING: 7**

## INTANGIBLES

Rodgers, who is looking to raise the bar at 1 Jets Drive, has made it clear he's not looking to just make the playoffs. "The next step is greatness; it's not just getting in the playoffs and having a winning season," Rodgers said."[It is about] putting together a very special run." Rodgers intends "to inspire the guys around me to raise their level of play to an even greater spot."

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Dan Leberfeld

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Will the Jets' offensive line come together and protect Rodgers effectively? A key to this will be the health of tackles Mekhi Becton and Duane Brown. If they protect Rodgers well, he should flourish in a system he loves and with plenty of weapons.

2. Can talented tailback Breece Hall regain his pre-injury form? He looked like a potential superstar before hurting his knee at Denver in the seventh game. Sometimes guys coming off ACL and meniscus injuries take some time to get back to their old selves, even when cleared.

3. Will the Jets be able to fix the things that didn't work during their six-game losing streak to end the season, aside from the quarterback position? It wasn't just the QB.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 7-10**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | BALTIMORE | 9-24 |
| Sept. 18 | at Cleveland | 31-30 |
| Sept. 25 | CINCINNATI | 12-27 |
| Oct. 2 | at Pittsburgh | 24-20 |
| Oct. 9 | MIAMI | 40-17 |
| Oct. 16 | at Green Bay | 27-10 |
| Oct. 23 | at Denver | 16-9 |
| Oct. 30 | NEW ENGLAND | 17-22 |
| Nov. 6 | BUFFALO | 20-17 |
| Nov. 20 | at New England | 3-10 |
| Nov. 27 | CHICAGO | 31-10 |
| Dec. 4 | at Minnesota | 22-27 |
| Dec. 11 | at Buffalo | 12-20 |
| Dec. 18 | DETROIT | 17-20 |
| Dec. 22 | JACKSONVILLE | 3-19 |
| Jan. 1 | at Seattle | 6-23 |
| Jan. 8 | at Miami | 6-11 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Eastern**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 3 | Cleveland, Canton | 8:00 |
| Aug. 10-14 | at Carolina | TBD |
| Aug. 17-21 | TAMPA BAY | TBD |
| Aug. 24-27 | at N.Y. Giants | TBD |
| Sept. 11 | BUFFALO (Mon) | 8:15 |
| Sept. 17 | at Dallas | 4:25 |
| Sept. 24 | NEW ENGLAND | 1:00 |
| Oct. 1 | KANSAS CITY | 8:20 |
| Oct. 8 | at Denver | 4:25 |
| Oct. 15 | PHILADELPHIA | 4:25 |
| | BYE | |
| Oct. 29 | at N.Y. Giants | 1:00 |
| Nov. 6 | L.A. CHARGERS (Mon) | 8:15 |
| Nov. 12 | at Las Vegas | 8:20 |
| Nov. 19 | at Buffalo | 4:25 |
| Nov. 24 | MIAMI (Fri) | 3:00 |
| Dec. 3 | ATLANTA | 1:00 |
| Dec. 10 | HOUSTON | 1:00 |
| Dec. 17 | at Miami | 1:00 |
| Dec. 24 | WASHINGTON | 1:00 |
| Dec. 28 | at Cleveland (Thu) | 8:15 |
| TBD | at New England | TBD |

# Bengals See Rare Three-Peat

By successfully defending their division title, the Bengals became the third team to win back-to-back AFC North crowns since the division was formed in 2002.

The Steelers have done it twice (2007-08 and 2016-17) and the Ravens once (2018-19). The Browns are the only team not to finish first in the division. Their fourth-place finish was the 14th in 21 years.

No team has ever three-peated in this black-and-blue division. You have to like the Bengals' chances. They're in the final year before constraints on their salary cap take effect due to franchise quarterback Joe Burrow's imminent second contract.

## BALTIMORE RAVENS

More than 24 months of franchise hand-wringing and city-wide angst were relieved when the club reached a mega-contract with quarterback Lamar Jackson on the eve of the draft in April. The five-year deal for $260 million resolved what, at worst, appeared to be an acrimonious ending to the Jackson era. All is good now.

With Jackson's future locked in, the Ravens can amp up efforts to modernize their offense. That started by replacing offensive coordinator Greg Roman with Todd Monken, who promises a faster-paced tempo seeking to create big plays in the passing game.

The addition of Odell Beckham Jr. and Nelson Agholor in free agency, and Zay Flowers in the draft, to join holdover receivers Rashod Bateman and Devin Duvernay should give Monken and Jackson the weapons to transform the way the Ravens operate on offense.

## CINCINNATI BENGALS

Joe Burrow was asked last year how long the Bengals' Super Bowl window will remain be open. He answered, "The window is my whole career."

It's a great answer, but the reality is the mission gets tougher after this season. That's because Burrow's second contract — perhaps an NFL record-breaker — has to be done. The Bengals also have to deal with expiring contracts after 2023 for receivers Tee Higgins and Tyler Boyd. Further, receiver Ja'Marr Chase becomes extension-eligible after this season. Burrow's hope of keeping the band together will be problematic.

That's for another day, however. For now, the two-time division champion Bengals did a great job of filling holes left by departing free agents while also fortifying Burrow's protection with the signing of free-agent left tackle Orlando Brown Jr.

## CLEVELAND BROWNS

The hiring of Jim Schwartz as defensive coordinator and Bubba Ventrone as special-teams coordinator may have a bigger impact than any of the 13 free agents signed and seven rookies drafted by general manager Andrew Berry.

Still, the Browns' hopes of attaining their first AFC North title clearly rest on Deshaun Watson returning to the form prior to a sexual misconduct scandal in his last year with the Houston Texans. With league sanctions behind him, Watson and the Browns are excited about having Watson available from Day 1 with no expected interruptions.

The Browns added two experienced, speedy receivers in Elijah Moore and Marquise Goodwin and then selected Tennessee's Cedric Tillman, to accommodate a revamping of their offense to fit Watson's needs and wants.

## PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Kenny Pickett's first season as starting quarterback was judged a success, and now all systems are go to proceed with the 2022 first-round pick and his leadership in the post-Ben Roethlisberger era.

In his first transaction season as general manager, Omar Khan displayed uncharacteristic aggressiveness for the Steelers. He added guards Isaac Seumalo (Eagles) and Nate Herbig (Jets), and traded for receiver Allen Robinson II to support Pickett. Khan also signed three projected defensive starters — cornerback Patrick Peterson, and linebackers Cole Holcomb and Elandon Roberts.

Khan capped it off with an outstanding draft, further assisting Pickett's growth with Georgia left tackle Broderick Jones and Georgia tight end Darnell Washington, and added potential immediate defensive contributors in corner
State and defensive tackle Keeanu Benton of Wisconsin.

## STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

| | Overall | Div. | 8 Non Div. | 3 Non Div. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cincinnati | .510 | .510 | .401 | .800 |
| Baltimore | .484 | .560 | .401 | .549 |
| Pittsburgh | .470 | .580 | .401 | .431 |
| Cleveland | .460 | .620 | .401 | .294 |

8 Non-Div. are games vs. two common divisions;
3 Non-Div. are games vs. teams with same place in standings.

## 5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

**1. Can the Bengals be the first team to three-peat in the AFC North?**

Nothing is easy in this division, but you have to like their chances if they can stay healthy at the key positions.

**2. Has the strained relationship between Lamar Jackson and the Ravens during their prolonged contract talks been repaired?**

Yes. It was nothing that a $185 million contract guarantee couldn't fix. They have kissed and made up.

**3. Are the Steelers realistic in thinking Kenny Pickett can compete with the big arms of Joe Burrow, Lamar Jackson and Deshaun Watson?**

This will be a big year toward answering that. The Steelers were wise to avoid a change of systems and coordinators in Pickett's second season and did well in supporting him with key offensive additions.

**4. How much better does Watson need to be for the Browns to compete for the division title?**

A lot better than he showed in six games last year. But if the Browns improve on defense and special teams, they won't need Watson to lead the NFL in passing, like he did in his last season in Houston in 2020.

**5. Which new player will have the biggest impact in the division?**

Candidates would include Ravens receiver Odell Beckham Jr., Bengals left tackle Orlando Brown Jr. and Browns receiver Elijah Moore. But it just might be Steelers rookie tight end Darnell Washington, who joins with veteran Pat Freiermuth to give Pickett another dangerous outlet passing target.

— Tony Grossi

# BALTIMORE RAVENS

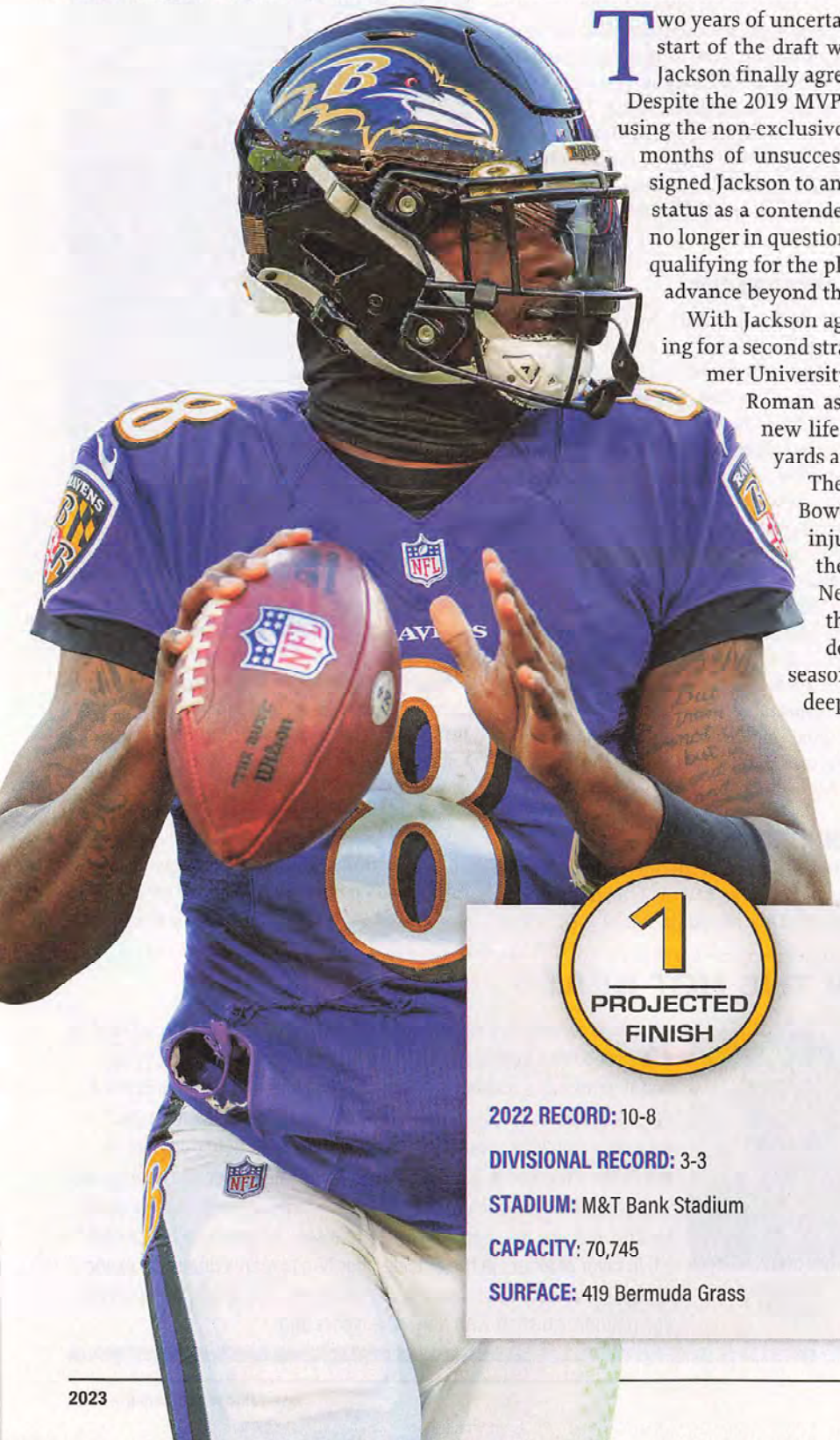
## Ravens Confident with Jackson Signed

Two years of uncertainty and frustration washed away hours before the start of the draft when the Ravens and superstar quarterback Lamar Jackson finally agreed to a five-year, $260 million contract.

Despite the 2019 MVP requesting a trade in early March and the Ravens using the non-exclusive franchise tag to invite outside interest after many months of unsuccessful negotiations, general manager Eric DeCosta signed Jackson to an extension through 2027 and cemented Baltimore's status as a contender in a loaded AFC. With their quarterback's future no longer in question, the Ravens will attempt to take the next step after qualifying for the playoffs in four of the last five seasons and failing to advance beyond the divisional round.

With Jackson again injured last December and the offense sputtering for a second straight season, head coach John Harbaugh tabbed former University of Georgia assistant Todd Monken to replace Greg Roman as offense coordinator. Monken will try to breathe new life into a passing game that finished 28th in passing yards and 26th in yards per attempt in 2022.

The Ravens made a $15 million bet on three-time Pro Bowl wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. to regain his pre-injury form, drafted speedy slot receiver Zay Flowers in the first round, and signed former first-round wideout Nelson Agholor to further their efforts to improve through the air. Those additions coupled with a defense that finished third in points allowed last season leave little excuse for Baltimore not to be playing deep into January.



**Lamar Jackson**
Photo by Damian Strohmeyer via AP

**1**
PROJECTED FINISH

**2022 RECORD:** 10-8

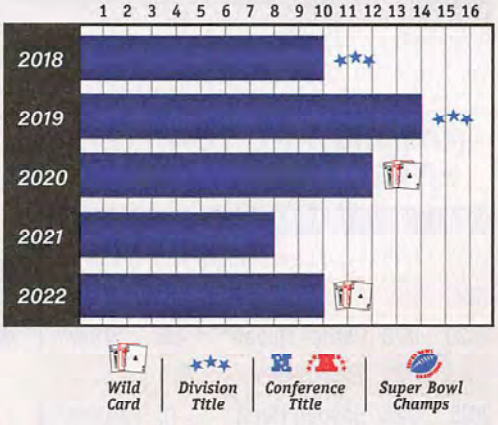
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 3-3

**STADIUM:** M&T Bank Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 70,745

**SURFACE:** 419 Bermuda Grass

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

**1 WINNING DRIVE**
**OWINGS MILLS, MD 21117**
**(410) 701-4000**
**WWW.BALTIMORERAVENS.COM**

**TRAINING CAMP:** Under Armour Performance Center, Owings Mills, MD
**HEAD COACH:** John Harbaugh
- 16th season as Ravens/NFL head coach
- 158-104 overall; 11-9 postseason

**OWNER:** Steve Bisciotti
**PRESIDENT:** Sashi Brown
**EXECUTIVE VP/GM:** Eric DeCosta
**EXECUTIVE VP:** Ozzie Newsome
**SR. ADVISOR TO GM:** Pat Moriarty
**DIRECTORS PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Joe Hortiz, George Kokinis
**DIR. COLLEGE SCOUTING:** David Blackburn
**SENIOR PLAYER PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE:** Vincent Newsome

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Todd Monken | Offensive coordinator | 9 | 1 |
| Tee Martin | Quarterbacks | 3 | 3 |
| James Urban | Sr. FB analyst/game plan | 20 | 6 |
| Craig Ver Steeg | Sr. FB analyst/game plan | 17 | 16 |
| Kerry Dixon | Assistant quarterbacks | 2 | 2 |
| Willie Taggart | Running backs | 1 | 1 |
| Joe D'Alessandris | Offensive line | 15 | 7 |
| Mike Devlin | Assistant line | 21 | 2 |
| Greg Lewis | Receivers | 9 | 1 |
| Keith Williams | Assistant receivers | 3 | 3 |
| George Godsey | Tight ends | 13 | 2 |
| Travis Switzer | Off. quality control | 7 | 7 |
| Danny Breyer | Off. quality control | 7 | 1 |
| Mike Macdonald | Defensive coordinator | 9 | 9 |
| Anthony Weaver | *Defensive line | 12 | 3 |
| Zachary Orr | Inside linebackers | 7 | 6 |
| Chuck Smith | Outside linebackers | 2 | 1 |
| Chris Hewitt | @Defensive backs | 13 | 12 |
| Dennard Wilson | Defensive backs | 12 | 1 |
| Daniel Stern | Def. quality control | 8 | 8 |
| Matt Robinson | Def. quality control | 3 | 3 |
| Chris Horton | Special teams coord. | 10 | 10 |
| T.J. Weist | Special teams | 6 | 6 |
| Randy Brown | Special teams/specialists | 20 | 16 |
| Scott Elliott | S&C coordinator | 5 | 5 |
| Anthony Watson | S&C | 5 | 5 |
| Ron Shrift | S&C | 7 | 7 |
| Kaelyn Buskey | Asst. S&C | 2 | 2 |
| Sam Rosengarten | Football performance | 7 | 7 |

* Assistant head coach @ Defensive pass game coordinator

## RAVENS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/25 | Tyler Linderbuam | C | Starter |
| 2021 | 1/27 | Rashod Bateman | WR | Starter |
| 2020 | 1/28 | Patrick Queen | LB | Starter |
| 2019 | 1/25 | Marquise Brown | WR | Cardinals |
| 2018 | 1/25 | Hayden Hurst | TE | Panthers |

## COACHING

Coming off his 10th playoff berth in 15 years, Harbaugh, 60, remains entrenched in Baltimore and under contract through 2025. However, the Ravens have registered only one playoff victory in the last eight seasons and two since winning Super Bowl XLVII, meaning expectations are mounting to make a deep run before the full effects of Jackson's contract are felt on the roster.

Monken previously served as an offensive coordinator in Tampa Bay and Cleveland and is known for catering his system to the strengths of his personnel, meaning the Ravens aren't going to abandon their strong running game despite multiple additions at receiver.

Defensive coordinator Mike Macdonald shook off a slow start in his first season to guide a defense that finished tied for ninth in yards allowed and ranked among the NFL's elite over the second half of the season.

**RATING: 8**

## QUARTERBACKS

With all focus finally back on the field, Jackson will need to learn a new offense and stay healthy after missing 11 games with leg injuries over the last two seasons. Jackson began 2022 on fire with 10 touchdown passes over the first three games and cut down on his interceptions from the previous season, but poor play at wide receiver did him few favors as he averaged a career-low 6.88 yards per pass attempt. Despite suffering a season-ending knee injury in Week 13, the dual-threat quarterback led Baltimore in rushing for the fourth straight year and remains a major headache for opposing defensive coordinators.

Tyler Huntley remains the backup and went a respectable 2-3 in his starts last season, but his goal-line fumble doomed Baltimore in the wild-card playoff loss at Cincinnati.

**RATING: 8.5**

## RUNNING BACKS

J.K. Dobbins and Gus Edwards endured hiccups in their return from 2021 ACL injuries, but the former looked like his old self late in 2022 by averaging 99.3 rushing yards and just under 7.0 yards per attempt over his final four games of the regular season. The bruising Edwards was limited to nine contests, but he averaged 5.0 yards per carry, something he's done in each of four healthy seasons. Justice Hill returns as the No. 3 running back and remains one of Baltimore's top contributors on special teams.

With Dobbins expressing his desire to take on a bigger workload and the committee approach under Roman no longer a factor, how Monken chooses to deploy the 2020 second-round pick will be interesting. Dobbins

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

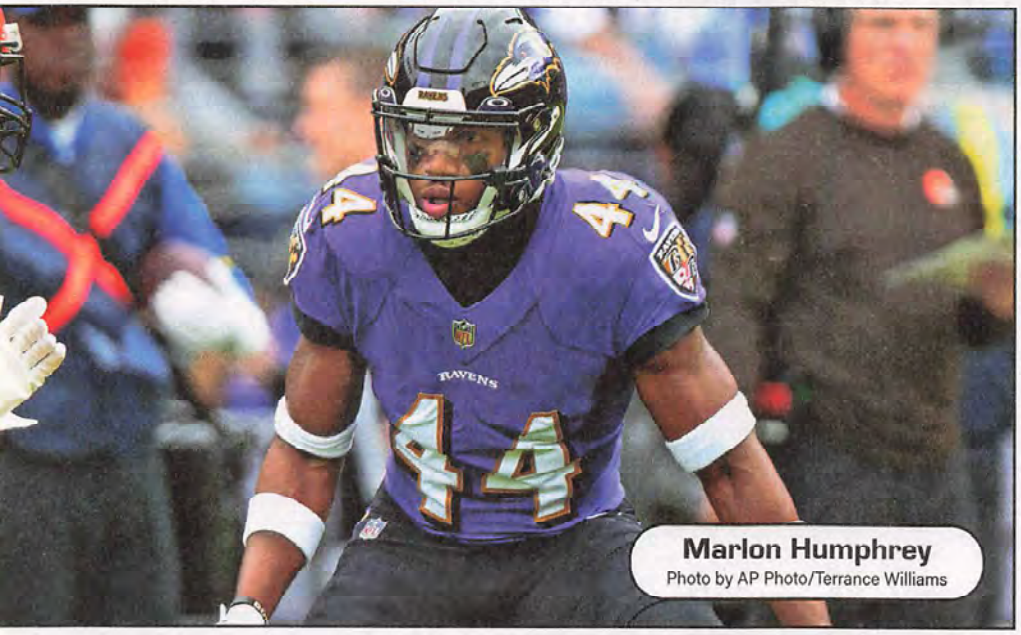
If RB **J.K. Dobbins** can stay healthy, sky's the limit for how far Baltimore can go. In eight starts, Dobbins flashed sudden burst, elusiveness and tremendous change of direction capabilities, averaging six yards per carry, while picking up 520 rushing yards. With more weapons in the passing game, it could help open up lanes even more for the third-year pro. ... It was easy to see the potential of TE **Isaiah Likely** as an undrafted rookie. He was a key member of the offense, nabbing 36 balls for 373 yards and three touchdowns. With so much focus on fellow TE Mark Andrews, it helps create opportunities for Likely when the Ravens feature multiple sets. Seeing his targets in the pass game rise from 60-to-100 in Year 2 is reasonable to expect. ... Coming out of Penn State, OLB **Odafe Oweh** had no career sacks and was very raw but extremely athletic. The coaching staff has tapped into some of that potential and got eight sacks out of him during his first two seasons. Oweh even earned six starts. However, Baltimore is seeking him to take the next step in his development in what is a make-or-break year. ... Former first-round pick FS **Kyle Hamilton** is expected to become a full-time starter after making four starts as a rookie.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

**ODAFE OWEH**

After recording five sacks and three forced fumbles in his first 11 games as a rookie, the Penn State product looked poised for a breakout 2022 campaign, but Oweh struggled to handle a heavier workload early in the season and saw his snaps diminish in favor of others in the outside linebacker rotation. The 6-foot-5, 257-pounder finished with only three sacks and one forced fumble, but he did collect a sack in the playoff loss at Cincinnati to finish the season on a positive note.

Given their light numbers at outside linebacker, the Ravens will remain patient with Oweh's development, but pressure is mounting for him to start living up to expectations as the 31st overall pick two years ago.



Marlon Humphrey
Photo by AP Photo/Terrance Williams

and Edwards are both entering contract years.

Once again, four-time Pro Bowl fullback Patrick Ricard will clear paths for anyone carrying the ball.

**RATING: 7.5**

## RECEIVERS

Tight end Mark Andrews had another superb season with 73 catches for 847 yards and five touchdowns to make his third Pro Bowl, but the wide receiver position was a disaster after 2021 first-round pick Rashod Bateman suffered a season-ending foot injury in October. Journeyman Demarcus Robinson led the receiver group with 48 catches for 458 yards and two touchdowns.

Though Beckham sat out last season after undergoing a second ACL reconstruction surgery and hasn't registered a 1,000-yard receiving season since 2019, the 30-year-old still brings credibility to a young receiver group that the Ravens haven't enjoyed in years. Baltimore is betting on that influence helping the development of Bateman and Flowers, while hoping Beckham enjoys a renaissance of his own.

Tight ends Isaiah Likely and Charlie Kolar will compete for snaps behind Andrews, while Agholor will battle Devin Duvernay, James Proche and Tylan Wallace at the back of the receiver depth chart.

**RATING: 7.5**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

After missing the better part of two years with a serious ankle injury, former All-Pro left tackle Ronnie Stanley stayed mostly healthy and returned to his old form, leading the offensive line to a strong season as run blockers and in pass protection. The Ravens ranked atop the AFC in rushing with 2,720 yards and allowed 38 sacks after surrendering a conference-worst 57 in 2021.

Right guard Kevin Zeitler and right tackle Morgan Moses provided above-average play and return for another season, while center Tyler Linderbaum showed the potential to be a Pro-Bowl candidate as a rookie. After the free-

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

### KEY ADDITION:

**WR Odell Beckham Jr.**
No one expects the same player who once posted three straight 1,300-yard seasons, but the Ravens would take the Beckham who shined in the 2021 postseason for the Super Bowl champion Los Angeles Rams.

### OTHER ADDITIONS:

WR Nelson Agholor

### KEY LOSS:

**DE Calais Campbell (14/14)***
The 36-year-old was still Baltimore's best defensive lineman against the run and registered 5.5 sacks, his highest total since 2019. The Ravens will miss his leadership and presence at the line of scrimmage.

### OTHER LOSSES:

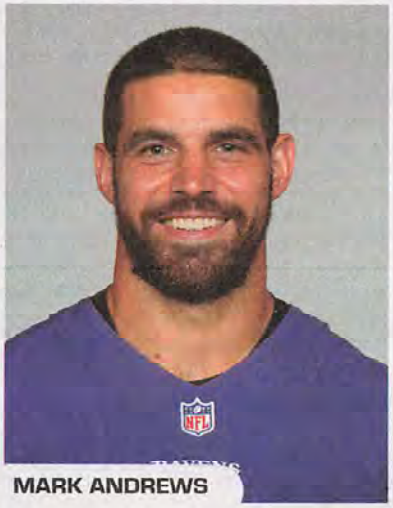
LB Vince Biegel (0/0), **S Chuck Clark (17/17),** C Trystan Colon (6/1), RB Kenyan Drake (12/5), CB Kyle Fuller (1/1), LB Justin Houston (14/1), T Ja'Wuan James (1/1), LB Steven Means (2/0), **TE Josh Oliver (17/9), CB Marcus Peters (13/13), LB Jason Pierre-Paul (14/13), G Ben Powers (17/17),** WR Demarcus Robinson (17/5), WR Sammy Watkins (3/2)*
**Total games played/started lost: 148/99**

### STARTERS RETURNING

16: 9 offense, 7 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS



MARK ANDREWS

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lamar Jackson | 326 | 203 | 2242 | 17 | 7 |
| Tyler Huntley | 112 | 75 | 658 | 2 | 3 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lamar Jackson | 112 | 764 | 6.8 | 3 |
| J.K. Dobbins | 92 | 520 | 5.7 | 2 |
| Kenyan Drake | 109 | 482 | 4.4 | 4 |
| Gus Edwards | 87 | 433 | 5 | 3 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mark Andrews | 73 | 847 | 11.6 | 5 |
| Demarcus Robinson | 48 | 458 | 9.5 | 2 |
| Devin Duvernay | 37 | 407 | 11 | 3 |

**Kicking:** Tucker 31/32 XPs, 37/43 FGs, 142 points
**Tackles:** Queen 117, Clark 101, Smith 86
**Sacks:** Houston 9.5, Madubuike 5.5, Campbell 5.5
**INTs:** Williams 4, Humphrey 3, Queen 2

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 338.8 | 16 |
| Passing Offense | 178.8 | 28 |
| Rushing Offense | 160.0 | 2 |
| Points | 20.6 | 19 |
| Sacked | 38 | T-13 |
| 3rd Down % | 41.7 | 11 |
| **Defense** | | |
| Total Defense | 324.3 | T-9 |
| Passing Defense | 232.2 | 26 |
| Rushing Defense | 92.1 | 3 |
| Points Allowed | 18.5 | 3 |
| INTs | 14 | T-12 |
| Sacks | 48 | T-5 |
| Turnover Diff. | +4 | T-9 |

# RAVENS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | Agholor, Nelson | 6-0 | 198 | 9 | Southern Cal | 16/7/0/1 | UFA,NE 23 | D1 PHA 15 | Will compete for No. 4 receiver spot after disappointing two-year run in New England. |
| **89** | **Andrews, Mark (TE)** | **6-5** | **247** | **6** | **Oklahoma** | **15/15/0/2** | **D3 18** | **D3 BLT 18** | **Remains one of NFL's elite tight ends and Lamar Jackson's favorite passing target.** |
| **7** | ***Bateman, Rashod** | **6-1** | **197** | **3** | **Minnesota** | **6/5/0/2** | **D1 21** | **D1 BLT 21** | **Looks explosive when on the field, but injuries have cost him 16 games in two years.** |
| **3** | **Beckham Jr., Odell** | **5-11** | **198** | **8** | **Louisiana State** | **14/13/0/3** | **FA 23** | **D1 NYG 14** | **Brings swagger to headline a revamped receiver group after sitting out 2022 season.** |
| 13 | *Duvernay, Devin (RS) | 5-11 | 202 | 4 | Texas | 14/13/0/0 | D3 20 | D3 BLT 20 | Started 13 games last year, but needs to compete for snaps in crowded receiver room. |
| 4 | Flowers, Zay | 5-9 | 182 | R | Boston College | 0/0 | D1 23 | D1 BLT 23 | Uses his explosiveness and toughness to overcome slight stature playing in the slot. |
| 83 | Isabella, Andy | 5-9 | 188 | 5 | Massachusetts | 5/0/0/1 | FA 23 | D2 ARIZ 19 | Saw little action after joining practice squad and faces steep climb to make roster. |
| 88 | Kolar, Charlie (TE) | 6-6 | 250 | 2 | Iowa State | 2/0/0/6 | D4 22 | D4 BLT 22 | Missed most of first year after sports hernia surgery, but showed promise in Week 18. |
| 80 | Likely, Isaiah (TE) | 6-4 | 241 | 2 | Coastal Carolina | 16/2/0/1 | D4 22 | D4 BLT 22 | Impressed whenever filling in for injured Andrews and improved his blocking ability. |
| 10 | Proche II, James (RS) | 5-11 | 191 | 4 | Southern Methodist | 15/0/0/2 | D6 20 | D6 BLT 20 | Hasn't taken advantage of limited opportunities and is now firmly on roster bubble. |
| 87 | Thomas, Mike D. | 6-1 | 197 | 8 | Southern Mississippi | 10/2/0/0 | FA 23 | D6 LA 16 | Didn't see any game action with Ravens after joining practice squad late last season. |
| 16 | *Wallace, Tylan | 5-11 | 198 | 3 | Oklahoma State | 9/0/0/3 | D4 21 | D4 BLT 21 | Excels as contributor on special teams, but development as a receiver has been slow. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 71 | Aumavae-Laulu, Malaesala (T) | 6-5 | 322 | R | Oregon | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 BLT 23 | Big college right tackle will likely become developmental guard moving to next level. |
| **66** | **Cleveland, Ben (LG)** | **6-6** | **370** | **3** | **Georgia** | **9/1/0/8** | **D3 21** | **D3 BLT 21** | **Has inside track for starting left guard job, but fell flat in last summer's battle.** |
| 77 | Faalele, Daniel (T) | 6-8 | 380 | 2 | Minnesota | 16/1/0/1 | D4 22 | D4 BLT 22 | Played respectably in emergency left-tackle duty as rookie, but better on right side. |
| **64** | **Linderbaum, Tyler (C)** | **6-2** | **305** | **2** | **Iowa** | **17/17** | **D1 22** | **D1 BLT 22** | **Struggled against bigger nose tackles, but potential is there to become elite center.** |
| 65 | Mekari, Patrick (G/T/C) | 6-4 | 305 | 5 | California | 16/4/0/1 | CFA 19 | CFA BLT 19 | Has started games at four different spots in career and offers valuable versatility. |
| **78** | **Moses, Morgan (RT)** | **6-6** | **320** | **10** | **Virginia** | **17/17** | **UFA,NYJ 22** | **D3 WSH 14** | **Hasn't missed a game since 2014 and was above average in first season with Ravens.** |
| 74 | Sharpe, David (T) | 6-6 | 346 | 6 | Florida | 0/0/1/0 | FA 23 | D4 OAK 17 | Spent most of last two seasons on Baltimore's practice squad as swing tackle depth. |
| 76 | Simpson, John (G) | 6-4 | 324 | 3 | Clemson | 11/2/1/1 | FA 23 | D4 LV 20 | Started 17 games for Las Vegas in 2021 and will compete for starting left guard job. |
| **79** | **Stanley, Ronnie (LT)** | **6-6** | **315** | **8** | **Notre Dame** | **11/11/0/6** | **D1 16** | **D1 BLT 16** | **Played well in 11 games and entered an offseason healthy for first time since 2020.** |
| 72 | Vorhees, Andrew (G) | 6-6 | 310 | R | Southern Cal | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 BLT 23 | Will miss rookie year after ACL injury in March, but should compete to start in 2024. |
| **70** | **Zeitler, Kevin (RG)** | **6-4** | **339** | **12** | **Wisconsin** | **15/15/0/2** | **FA 21** | **D1 CIN 12** | **Had another Pro Bowl-caliber season at right guard while again missing out on honor.** |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **27** | **Dobbins, J.K.** | **5-10** | **212** | **4** | **Ohio State** | **8/8/0/3** | **D2 20** | **D2 BLT 20** | **Wasn't happy with late 2022 usage and wants lion's share of carries in contract year.** |
| 35 | Edwards, Gus | 6-1 | 238 | 6 | Rutgers | 9/4/0/2 | FA 18 | CFA BLT 18 | Took pay cut to remain with Ravens and will try to rebuild value with healthy season. |
| 43 | Hill, Justice | 5-10 | 200 | 5 | Oklahoma State | 15/0/0/2 | D4 19 | D4 BLT 19 | Returns on two-year deal as possible change-of-pace option in the revamped offense. |
| **42** | **Ricard, Patrick (FB)** | **6-3** | **305** | **7** | **Maine** | **17/16** | **CFA 17** | **CFA BLT 17** | **Could be used differently following Roman's departure, but remains an elite fullback.** |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Brown, Anthony | 6-1 | 228 | 1 | Oregon | 2/1/3/0 | FA 22 | CFA BLT 22 | Will try to win No. 2 quarterback job after showing poise in limited rookie action. |
| 2 | Huntley, Tyler | 6-1 | 204 | 4 | Utah | 6/4/10/1 | FA 21 | CFA BLT 20 | Saw no interest as restricted free agent before signing tender to stay in Baltimore. |
| **8** | **Jackson, Lamar** | **6-2** | **230** | **6** | **Louisville** | **12/12/0/5** | **D1 18** | **D1 BLT 18** | **Aiming to win his first Super Bowl after becoming NFL's highest-paid player in April.** |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 98 | Jones, Travis (T) | 6-4 | 334 | 2 | Connecticut | 15/3/0/2 | D3 22 | D3 BLT 22 | Overcame summer knee injury to average 21.6 snaps per game as solid rotation member. |
| **92** | **Madubuike, Justin (T)** | **6-3** | **293** | **4** | **Texas A&M** | **17/16** | **D3 20** | **D3 BLT 20** | **Recorded career-high 5.5 sacks and could be in line for big payday with strong 2023.** |
| **58** | ***Pierce, Michael (NT)** | **6-0** | **355** | **7** | **Samford** | **3/3/0/0** | **FA 22** | **CFA BLT 16** | **Registered 21 tackles and could see larger workload following Calais Campbell's exit.** |
| 97 | Urban, Brent (E) | 6-7 | 309 | 10 | Virginia | 16/0/0/1 | FA 22 | D4 BLT 14 | Has played 11 games over the last three years and took pay cut to stick with Ravens. |
| **96** | **Washington, Broderick (E)** | **6-2** | **314** | **4** | **Texas Tech** | **17/9** | **D5 20** | **D5 BLT 20** | **Emerged as an impact rotation contributor and registered a career-high 49 tackles.** |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **54** | **Bowser, Tyus (O)** | **6-3** | **242** | **7** | **Houston** | **9/4/0/0** | **D2 17** | **D2 BLT 17** | **Didn't return from 2021 Achilles injury until November and should be better in 2023.** |
| 40 | Harrison, Malik (I) | 6-3 | 259 | 4 | Ohio State | 17/8 | D3 20 | D3 BLT 20 | Adds depth at inside or outside linebacker, but contributes mostly on special teams. |
| 59 | *Hayes, Daelin (O) | 6-4 | 257 | 3 | Notre Dame | 0/0/0/0 | D5 21 | D5 BLT 21 | Hasn't developed due to injuries over two years and faces tall task to make roster. |
| 90 | Ojabo, David (O) | 6-4 | 255 | 2 | Michigan | 2/0/0/7 | D2 22 | D2 BLT 22 | Brings great potential and now has a healthy offseason to develop into impact rusher. |
| **99** | **Oweh, Odafe (O)** | **6-5** | **257** | **3** | **Penn State** | **17/6** | **D1 21** | **D1 BLT 21** | **Didn't live up to second-year hype, but flashed as interior rusher down the stretch.** |
| 53 | Phillips, Del'Shawn (I) | 6-2 | 230 | 4 | Illinois | 16/0/0/1 | FA 23 | CFA ATL 19 | Wasn't a factor at linebacker, but was a significant contributor on special teams. |
| **6** | **Queen, Patrick (I)** | **6-0** | **237** | **4** | **Louisiana State** | **17/17** | **D1 20** | **D1 BLT 20** | **Enters contract year with plenty of motivation after not receiving fifth-year option.** |
| 95 | Robinson, Tavius (O) | 6-6 | 258 | R | Mississippi | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 BLT 23 | Draws comparisons to former Raven Za'Darius Smith and should join rotation as rookie. |
| 46 | *Ross, Josh (I) | 6-0 | 229 | 2 | Michigan | 2/0/0/0 | CFA 22 | CFA BLT 22 | Foot injury derailed rookie year and eliminated chance to earn some defensive snaps. |
| 30 | Simpson, Trenton (I) | 6-2 | 234 | R | Clemson | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 BLT 23 | Showed speed and college production to become future starter at weak-side linebacker. |
| **0** | **Smith, Roquan (I)** | **6-1** | **232** | **6** | **Georgia** | **17/17** | **T,CHI 22** | **D1 CHI 18** | **Ranked third in tackles and became defensive leader after only arriving in November.** |
| 57 | Welch, Kristian (I) | 6-3 | 242 | 4 | Iowa | 17/0 | FA 23 | CFA BLT 20 | Finished second on the team in snaps on special teams and provides some inside depth. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | *Armour-Davis, Jalyn (CB) | 6-1 | 195 | 2 | Alabama | 4/1/0/6 | D4 22 | D4 BLT 22 | Saw defensive snaps in September before struggles; injuries sidelined him as rookie. |
| **14** | **Hamilton, Kyle (S)** | **6-4** | **221** | **2** | **Notre Dame** | **16/4/0/1** | **D1 22** | **D1 BLT 22** | **Showed dynamic ability at nickel and now moves to starting safety job in second year.** |
| **44** | **Humphrey, Marlon (CB)** | **6-0** | **205** | **7** | **Alabama** | **17/17** | **D1 17** | **D1 BLT 17** | **Remains one of AFC's best corners with ability to excel outside or defend the slot.** |
| 17 | Kelly, Kyu Blu (CB) | 6-0 | 192 | R | Stanford | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 BLT 23 | Started all four seasons in college and son of longtime NFL cornerback Brian Kelly. |
| 28 | Mullen Jr., Trayvon (CB) | 6-2 | 200 | 5 | Clemson | 9/0/0/7 | W,DALL 23 | D2 OAK 19 | Cousin of Lamar Jackson and vying for job after 2022 stints with Arizona and Dallas. |
| 25 | Seymour, Kevon (CB) | 6-0 | 188 | 6 | Southern Cal | 14/0/0/0 | FA 22 | D6 BUFF 16 | Excels in all special-teams phases and can provide limited depth lining up at nickel. |
| **21** | **Stephens, Brandon (CB)** | **6-1** | **215** | **3** | **Southern Methodist** | **15/4/0/2** | **D3 21** | **D3 BLT 21** | **Played best football late in season filling in as starter for injured Marcus Peters.** |
| 26 | Stone, Geno (S) | 5-11 | 209 | 4 | Iowa | 17/7 | FA 23 | D7 BLT 20 | Filled in at high level when Marcus Williams missed seven games with wrist injury. |
| 29 | Washington, Ar'Darius (S) | 5-8 | 176 | 2 | Texas Christian | 3/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA BLT 21 | Sleeper choice to make name for himself in open competition for nickel corner spot. |
| 22 | Williams, Damarion (CB) | 5-10 | 180 | 2 | Houston | 14/0/0/3 | D4 22 | D4 BLT 22 | Struggled in limited opportunities at nickel, but has skills to succeed in that role. |
| **32** | **Williams, Marcus (S)** | **6-1** | **207** | **7** | **Utah** | **10/10/0/0** | **UFA,NORL 22** | **D2 NORL 17** | **Intercepted three passes in first two games as Raven to showcase playmaking skills.** |
| 41 | Worley, Daryl (CB) | 6-1 | 205 | 8 | West Virginia | 8/1/0/1 | FA 22 | D3 CARO 16 | Earned offseason contract with surprising performance in Week 18 loss at Cincinnati. |
| 23 | *Ya-Sin, Rock (CB) | 5-11 | 192 | 5 | Temple | 11/9/0/4 | FA 23 | D2 IND 19 | Has had durability concerns in career, but has traits to thrive as an outside corner. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 46 | Moore, Nick (LS) | 6-2 | 253 | 4 | Georgia | 17/0 | FA 23 | CFA NORL 19 | Hasn't garnered much attention since earning job in 2021, which is a positive thing. |
| 11 | Stout, Jordan (P) | 6-3 | 214 | 2 | Penn State | 17/0 | D4 22 | D4 BLT 22 | Lacked consistency as a rookie, but recorded a respectable 26 punts inside the 20. |
| 9 | Tucker, Justin (K) | 6-1 | 184 | 12 | Texas | 17/0 | CFA 12 | CFA BLT 12 | Led league with 37 field goals, including an impressive nine from 50 yards or more. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; SD=Supplemental Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent; PB=Plan B.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Tarik Black (1, Texas), Shemar Bridges (1, Fort Valley State), Dontay Demus Jr. (Maryland), Sean Ryan (Rutgers); TEs Ben Mason (1, Michigan), Travis Vokolek (Nebraska), Brian Walker (Shepherd); T Brandon Kipper (Oregon State); Gs Tykeem Doss (Southern Mississippi), Jake Guidone (Connecticut), Tashawn Manning (Kentucky); RBs Keaton Mitchell (East Carolina), Owen Wright (Monmouth); FB/DT Levi Bell (Texas State); QB Nolan Henderson (Delaware); DTs Trey Botts (Colorado State-Pueblo), Kaieem Caesar (Ohio), Rayshad Nichols (1, Stephen F. Austin); LBs Malik Hamm (Lafayette), Jeremiah Moon (1, Florida), Kelle Sanders (Alabama-Birmingham); CBs BoPete Keyes (3, Tulane), Jeremy Lucien (Vanderbilt), Corey Mayfield (Texas-San Antonio)

agent departure of Ben Powers, the only starting spot to fill on the offensive line will be at left guard with Ben Cleveland, Patrick Mekari and John Simpson expected to compete for that job. Developmental tackles Daniel Faalele and Malaesala Aumavae-Laulu are expected to fill out the back of the depth chart.

**RATING: 8.5**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Ravens released six-time Pro-Bowl selection Calais Campbell to clear $7 million in salary-cap space, but they're hoping the healthy return of 30-year-old nose tackle Michael Pierce will help offset that loss in the trenches after Baltimore ranked third in the NFL at 3.9 yards per carry allowed last season. Justin Madubuike and Broderick Washington both took a big step forward last season and are entering contract years.

The 32-year-old Brent Urban returns for depth at defensive end, but the combination of age and expiring contracts in this group makes it important for 2022 third-round pick Travis Jones to emerge as a future anchor for the defensive front after a solid rookie campaign.

**RATING: 7**

## LINEBACKERS

Described by DeCosta as "a force multiplier" after being acquired from Chicago at the trade deadline, inside linebacker Roquan Smith was outstanding in nine games to make his first Pro Bowl. The 26-year-old received a five-year, $100 million contract extension and leads the middle of the defense next to Patrick Queen with third-round rookie Trenton Simpson backing them up.

Outside linebacker carries less certainty beyond veteran starter Tyus Bowser. Expectations are high for 2022 second-round pick David Ojabo after he spent most of his rookie year recovering from an Achilles injury, but 2021 first-round pick Odafe Oweh had a disappointing second season after showing promise as a rookie. The Ravens drafted Tavius Robinson in the fourth round, but at least one veteran addition for this position group appears in order.

**RATING: 7.5**

## SECONDARY

Cornerback remained the biggest post-draft roster need until Baltimore agreed to a one-year deal with Rock Ya-Sin, who is the favorite to start opposite three-time Pro-Bowl selection Marlon Humphrey. Kyle Hamilton moving to a starting safety spot opens a hole at the nickel after the first-round pick handled that job as a rookie. Brandon Stephens, Damarion Williams, Jalyn Armour-Davis and rookie Kyu Blu Kelly are the top internal candidates for that No. 3 corner job, but DeCosta adding another veteran before the season remains possible after three-time Pro-Bowl cornerback Marcus Peters wasn't re-signed at the start of the new league year.

Even with the departure of veteran Chuck Clark, Marcus Williams and Hamilton should form a dynamic starting safety tandem. Geno Stone returns as the top backup to round out that strong group.

**RATING: 8**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Justin Tucker continues on a Hall of Fame path after making his sixth Pro Bowl and remains the standard to which active kickers are judged. Punter Jordan Stout didn't have the best rookie season in ranking 27th in net punting average, but the Ravens remain confident in his talents. Duvernay made his second straight Pro Bowl as a return specialist despite finishing the season on injured reserve. Nick Moore signed a two-year deal to remain Baltimore's long snapper.

**RATING: 9**

## INTANGIBLES

Jackson's contract status was a dark cloud hanging over the organization in 2022 with everyone having to answer questions about his future and there even being unsettling conjecture about his late-season knee injury. With the 26-year-old staying put and the focus returning to the field, the Ravens should only be better, especially if Jackson can avoid another December injury.

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Luke Jones

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Will cornerback depth concerns lead to a repeat of the late-game struggles from last season? The Ravens lost five games in which they led by two scores in the second half, and there are few ways to hurt a contender faster than questionable cornerback play.

2. Who will replace Ben Powers at left guard to try to sustain the excellent offensive line play from 2022? Baltimore drafted Ben Cleveland in the third round in 2021 with designs of him starting, but injuries have slowed his development.

3. Are there enough targets to go around in Todd Monken's offense? The run-first Ravens are placing greater emphasis on the pass, but adding Odell Beckham Jr. and first-round pick Zay Flowers will be interesting for Lamar Jackson, who's accustomed to zeroing in on Mark Andrews and maybe one other receiver.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 10-8**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | at N.Y. Jets | 24-9 |
| Sept. 18 | MIAMI | 38-42 |
| Sept. 25 | at New England | 37-26 |
| Oct. 2 | BUFFALO | 20-23 |
| Oct. 9 | CINCINNATI | 19-17 |
| Oct. 16 | at N.Y. Giants | 20-24 |
| Oct. 23 | CLEVELAND | 23-20 |
| Oct. 27 | at Tampa Bay | 27-22 |
| Nov. 7 | at New Orleans | 27-13 |
| Nov. 20 | CAROLINA | 13-3 |
| Nov. 27 | at Jacksonville | 27-28 |
| Dec. 4 | DENVER | 10-9 |
| Dec. 11 | at Pittsburgh | 16-14 |
| Dec. 17 | at Cleveland | 3-13 |
| Dec. 24 | ATLANTA | 17-9 |
| Jan. 1 | PITTSBURGH | 13-16 |
| Jan. 8 | at Cincinnati | 16-27 |
| Jan. 15 | at Cincinnati | 17-24 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Eastern**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 11 | PHILADELPHIA (Fri) | 7:00 |
| Aug. 21 | at Washington (Mon) | 8:15 |
| Aug. 26 | at Tampa Bay (Sat.) | TBD |
| Sept. 10 | HOUSTON | 1:00 |
| Sept. 17 | at Cincinnati | 1:00 |
| Sept. 24 | INDIANAPOLIS | 1:00 |
| Oct. 1 | at Cleveland | 1:00 |
| Oct. 8 | at Pittsburgh | 1:00 |
| Oct. 15 | Tennessee (London) | 9:30 |
| Oct. 22 | DETROIT | 1:00 |
| Oct. 29 | at Arizona | 4:25 |
| Nov. 5 | SEATTLE | 1:00 |
| Nov. 12 | CLEVELAND | 1:00 |
| Nov. 16 | CINCINNATI (Thu) | 8:15 |
| Nov. 26 | at L.A. Chargers | 8:20 |
| | BYE | |
| Dec. 10 | L.A. RAMS | 1:00 |
| Dec. 17 | at Jacksonville | 8:20 |
| Dec. 25 | at San Francisco (Mon) | 8:15 |
| Dec. 31 | MIAMI | 1:00 |
| TBD | PITTSBURGH | TBD |

# CINCINNATI BENGALS

## Burrow Not an Average Joe

The Bengals were a block or two away from a Super Bowl title in 2021, and after overhauling the offensive line that offseason, they were still left wondering what better protection for Joe Burrow could have meant when they came up short in the AFC Championship last season.

Injuries to three starting linemen tested their depth in the playoffs, but the Bengals sent a clear message the improvement in that initial group last year wasn't enough – especially not while preparing for a long-term investment in Burrow's future.

The surprise addition of free-agent left tackle Orlando Brown Jr. seemingly increases their chances of playing deep into the postseason for a third straight year. It's not now or never for these Bengals, but the window for the franchise's first Lombardi Trophy might never be as open as it is in 2023, while Burrow is still on a manageable contract. Several key pieces, offensively and defensively, are entering the last year of their contracts, and the free agency budget could look a lot different next year.

While the offense got even better this offseason, the biggest questions still surround the defense. Coordinator Lou Anarumo has proven capable of adapting to change over the last couple of seasons, but he lost three starters in the secondary, most notably safeties Jessie Bates III and Vonn Bell, and a lot could be riding on the development of 2022 draft picks Dax Hill and Cam Taylor-Britt, who are stepping into bigger roles at safety and cornerback.

**Joe Burrow**
Photo by Joe Robbins

**2**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 14-5

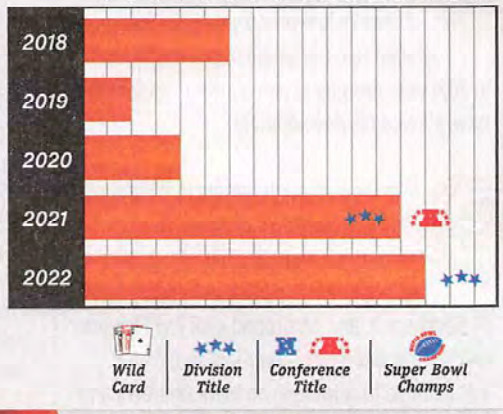
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 3-3

**STADIUM:** Paycor Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 65,515

**SURFACE:** Twenty-four/Seven

**WINS PER YEAR**



## AT A GLANCE

1 PAYCOR STADIUM
CINCINNATI, OH 45202
(513) 621-3550
WWW.BENGALS.COM

**TRAINING CAMP:** Paycor Stadium; Cincinnati, OH
**HEAD COACH:** Zac Taylor
- 5th season as Bengals/NFL head coach
- 33-38-1 overall; 5-2 postseason

**PRESIDENT:** Mike Brown
**EXECUTIVE VP:** Katie Blackburn
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Troy Blackburn
**VP/PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Paul Brown
**DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Duke Tobin
**DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Mike Potts
**DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:** Steven Radicevic
**SENIOR PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE:** Trey Brown

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Brian Callahan | Offensive coordinator | 14 | 5 |
| Dan Pitcher | Quarterbacks | 8 | 8 |
| Brad Kragthorpe | Asst. quarterbacks | 5 | 5 |
| Frank Pollack | @Offensive line | 17 | 4 |
| Derek Frazier | Assistant line | 4 | 2 |
| James Casey | Tight ends | 5 | 5 |
| Troy Walters | Receivers | 4 | 4 |
| Justin Hill | Running backs | 3 | 3 |
| Fredi Knighten | Offensive assistant | 1 | 1 |
| Lou Anarumo | Defensive coordinator | 12 | 5 |
| Mark Duffner | Sr. defensive assistant | 27 | 11 |
| Marion Hobby | Defensive line | 9 | 3 |
| James Bettcher | Linebackers | 11 | 2 |
| Jordan Kovacs | Asst. linebackers | 5 | 5 |
| Charles Burks | Cornerbacks | 5 | 2 |
| Robert Livingston | Safeties | 9 | 9 |
| Louie Cioffi | Def. quality control | 25 | 17 |
| Darrin Simmons | *Special teams coord. | 26 | 21 |
| Colt Anderson | Asst. special teams | 4 | 4 |
| Joey Boese | S&C | 5 | 5 |
| Todd Hunt | Assistant S&C | 5 | 5 |
| Garrett Swanson | Assistant S&C | 5 | 5 |

* Assistant head coach @ Run game coordinator

## BENGALS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/31 | Dax Hill | S | Backup |
| 2021 | 1/5 | Ja'Marr Chase | WR | Starter |
| 2020 | 1/1 | Joe Burrow | QB | Starter |
| 2019 | 1/11 | Jonah Williams | T | Starter |
| 2018 | 1/21 | Billy Price | C | UFA |

## COACHING

Both Anarumo and offensive coordinator Brian Callahan interviewed for head coaching vacancies during the offseason, but Zac Taylor surprisingly was able to keep his core staff intact for a fifth year together. Even all of the assistants from 2022 returned. That kind of continuity is rare these days. Taylor came to Cincinnati in 2019 without much leadership experience on his resumé, but managed to turn around the culture of the locker room and build a staff invested in winning championships. They've led the Bengals to back-to-back AFC North titles and two straight AFC Championship appearances, and coaching deserves some credit.

**RATING: 8**

## QUARTERBACKS

Burrow missed three weeks of training camp because of an appendectomy, and while he never used that as an excuse, the missed time may have contributed to his slow start in 2022. Nonetheless, he still had another record-setting season for the Bengals with single-season records in completions (414) and touchdowns (35) and was an MVP candidate and first-time Pro-Bowl pick. The only knock on the quarterback room is the dropoff from Burrow to new backup Trevor Siemian. Siemian had some success in Denver in 2016-17, but hasn't won a game in six starts since then with the Jets, Saints and Bears.

**RATING: 8.5**

## RUNNING BACKS

The Bengals appear committed to Joe Mixon as their starting running back, despite a misdemeanor aggravated assault charge that surfaced this offseason, but even with Mixon back, they had a big hole to fill with Samaje Perine's departure. Cincinnati waited until the fifth round to draft a running back, though, and former Illinois standout Chase Brown, while an exciting player, is still an unknown in pass protection, where Perine excelled. Trayveon Williams and Chris Evans are expected to see increased roles, but still have limited experience. After Mixon saw a decline in production last season, the Bengals said they wanted to be more efficient in the running game, but they have their work cut out for them.

**RATING: 6.5**

## RECEIVERS

Tee Higgins, Ja'Marr Chase and Tyler Boyd form one of the best receiving groups in the league, with Higgins' catch radius, Chase's

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

The Bengals struck gold with the Day-3 selection of **G Cordell Volson**. By the end of the season, he was the most improved player on the team. His footwork, hand placement and development in pass-blocking made him a permanent starter. Volson could progress towards Pro-Bowl status as soon as this year. ... Cincinnati took a hit in the secondary during the offseason, which means young players CB **Cam Taylor-Britt** and SS **Dax Hill** will be counted on to assume a greater role. Both players were selected early in the 2022 draft with an eye on the 2023 season. The aggressive Taylor-Britt brings an air of confidence that allows for a short memory. In addition, he possesses a combination of size, speed and instincts, which can tend to lead to creating turnovers. The coaching staff has echoed his preparation and he is locked in as the starter opposite CB Chidobe Awuzie. As for Hill, he primarily made his contributions on special teams, but received more playing time down the stretch. After experimenting with Hill in various roles on defense such as nickel back, he is considered a favorite to land one of the starting safety jobs entering training camp.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

JACKSON CARMAN

Carman earned back some faith last year while filling in for injured left tackle Jonah Williams in the playoffs. But this might be his last chance to show if he can be a regular starter for this team. He lost the right-guard job in 2021, was beat out by rookie Cordell Volson in the left-guard battle last year and now will be in the mix for the right-tackle spot that is up in the air. Carman had been inactive the final 14 games of the 2022 regular season, but stepped in during the wild-card game and was solid in his two starts after that. But, can he sustain that level over a longer period of time? The time has come to step up.

# BENGALS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 86 | Asiasi, Devin (TE) | 6-3 | 260 | 4 | UCLA | 12/0/1/3 | W,NE 22 | D3 NE 20 | Acquired after 2022 preseason; played in 12 games at depleted tight-end spot. |
| **83** | **Boyd, Tyler (RS)** | **6-2** | **203** | **8** | **Pittsburgh** | **16/14** | **D2 16** | **D2 CIN 16** | **One of the top slot receivers in the league; dropped only three passes in 2022.** |
| **1** | **Chase, Ja'Marr** | **6-0** | **201** | **3** | **Louisiana State** | **12/12/0/4** | **D1 21** | **D1 CIN 21** | **Explosive playmaker and deep threat with six TDs of 50 yards or more since 2021.** |
| **5** | **Higgins, Tee** | **6-4** | **219** | **4** | **Clemson** | **16/14** | **D2 20** | **D2 CIN 20** | **Big target for Burrow; reached 1,000 yards for second time despite three injuries.** |
| 87 | Hudson, Tanner (TE) | 6-5 | 239 | 4 | Southern Arkansas | 11/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA TB 18 | Practice-squad player in 2022 who could compete for time; has played 33 career games. |
| 80 | Iosivas, Andrei | 6-3 | 205 | R | Princeton | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 CIN 23 | Freakishly good athlete with raw skills that make him a bit of a project depth piece. |
| 16 | Irwin, Trenton | 6-2 | 200 | 3 | Stanford | 9/2/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA MIA 19 | Stepped up in big moments with four touchdowns last year, despite limited chances. |
| 15 | Jones, Charlie | 6-0 | 183 | R | Purdue | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 CIN 23 | 2021 Big Ten Return Specialist of the Year could be a future starting slot receiver. |
| 17 | Morgan, Stanley | 6-0 | 205 | 5 | Nebraska | 14/0/0/2 | FA 22 | CFA CIN 19 | Reserve receiver known for blocking; a top contributor on special teams. |
| 89 | *Sample, Drew (TE) | 6-5 | 255 | 5 | Washington | 2/2/0/2 | D2 19 | D2 CIN 19 | Strong run blocker; missed all but two games because of season-ending knee injury. |
| **81** | **Smith Jr., Irv (TE)** | **6-2** | **240** | **5** | **Alabama** | **9/1/0/0** | **UFA,MINN 23** | **D2 MINN 19** | **Newcomer with something to prove after big injuries limited him past two seasons.** |
| 11 | Taylor, Trent | 5-8 | 181 | 6 | Louisiana Tech | 16/1 | FA 22 | D5 SF 17 | Backup receiver; tied for third in punt-return yards (340), eighth in average (10.8). |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 77 | Adeniji, Hakeem (T) | 6-4 | 315 | 4 | Kansas | 15/1/0/1 | D6 20 | D6 CIN 20 | Thrust into starting role because of injuries past two seasons at right guard/tackle. |
| 62 | *Brown, Ben (C) | 6-5 | 312 | 2 | Pittsburgh | 0/0/0/0 | CFA 22 | CFA CIN 22 | Missed entire rookie season after suffering a biceps injury during training camp. |
| **75** | **Brown Jr., Orlando (LT)** | **6-8** | **345** | **6** | **Oklahoma** | **17/17** | **UFA,KC 23** | **D3 BLT 18** | **Four-time Pro Bowler who helped Kansas City Chiefs win Super Bowl last season.** |
| **65** | **Cappa, Alex (RG)** | **6-6** | **310** | **6** | **Humboldt State** | **16/16** | **UFA,TB 22** | **D3 TB 18** | **Allowed only three sacks in 16 games, but injured ankle in regular-season finale.** |
| 79 | Carman, Jackson (G/T) | 6-5 | 322 | 3 | Clemson | 3/0/0/13 | D2 21 | D2 CIN 21 | Originally a left tackle out of Clemson; has repped at every spot except center. |
| 71 | *Collins, La'el (T) | 6-4 | 314 | 9 | Louisiana State | 15/15/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA DALL 15 | Struggled through back injury early in 2022, then tore ligaments in knee Dec. 24. |
| 61 | Ford, Cody (G/T) | 6-3 | 329 | 4 | Oklahoma | 11/3/0/0 | UFA,ARIZ 23 | D2 BUFF 19 | Former Cardinals lineman adds depth at guard, but is versatile enough to play tackle. |
| 63 | Hill, Trey (C) | 6-4 | 335 | 3 | Georgia | 11/0/5/0 | D6 21 | D6 CIN 21 | Backup center; got three starts in 2021, but was limited to special teams last season. |
| **64** | **Karras, Ted (C)** | **6-4** | **310** | **8** | **Illinois** | **16/16** | **UFA,NE 22** | **D6 NE 16** | **Vocal leader; played all but seven offensive snaps in first season with the Bengals.** |
| 74 | Scharping, Max (G) | 6-6 | 325 | 5 | Northern Illinois | 14/0/0/2 | W,HOUS 22 | D2 HOUS 19 | Played 14 games on special teams, but stepped up at RG in playoffs with Cappa hurt. |
| 70 | Smith, D'Ante (G) | 6-5 | 309 | 3 | East Carolina | 1/0/0/15 | D4 21 | D4 CIN 21 | Inactive all but one game, but played in postseason because of injuries to starters. |
| **67** | **Volson, Cordell (LG)** | **6-6** | **315** | **2** | **North Dakota State** | **16/16** | **D4 22** | **D4 CIN 22** | **Won left-guard job in training camp and played every offensive snap as a rookie.** |
| **73** | **Williams, Jonah (RT)** | **6-5** | **312** | **4** | **Alabama** | **16/16** | **D1 19** | **D1 CIN 19** | **Allowed 12 sacks. Dislocated both knees on separate occasions; replaced by Brown.** |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | Brown, Chase | 5-10 | 211 | R | Illinois | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 CIN 23 | Workhorse at Illinois; needs to prove himself in pass protection, ball security. |
| 25 | Evans, Chris | 5-11 | 215 | 3 | Michigan | 12/0/0/4 | D6 21 | D6 CIN 21 | Solid pass-catcher; saw limited touches on offense, but split kick-return duties. |
| **28** | **Mixon, Joe** | **6-1** | **220** | **7** | **Oklahoma** | **14/14/0/2** | **D2 17** | **D2 CIN 17** | **Had record five TDs against Carolina last year, but led an ineffective running game.** |
| 32 | Williams, Trayveon | 5-8 | 206 | 5 | Texas A&M | 8/0/0/8 | FA 21 | D6 CIN 19 | Backup halfback saw only eight touches in 2022; took over as kick returner in Game 10. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Browning, Jake | 6-2 | 209 | 1 | Washington | 0/0/0/1 | FA 23 | CFA MINN 19 | Spent last four years on practice squads in Cincy and Minnesota; awaiting NFL debut. |
| **9** | **Burrow, Joe** | **6-4** | **215** | **4** | **Louisiana State** | **16/16** | **D1 20** | **D1 CIN 20** | **Record-setting starter for Bengals; second-most passing TDs (35) in NFL last season.** |
| 19 | *Siemian, Trevor (QB) | 6-3 | 220 | 7 | Northwestern | 2/1/10/0 | FA 23 | D7 DEN 15 | Burrow's new backup; has experience with 30 starts, but just six since end of 2017. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 52 | Basham, Tarell (E) | 6-4 | 266 | 7 | Ohio | 8/0/0/2 | UFA,TENN 23 | D3 IND 17 | Played 82 games in six seasons, but just seven games with Titans/Cowboys last year. |
| 95 | Carter, Zach (T) | 6-4 | 290 | 2 | Florida | 16/9 | D3 22 | D3 CIN 22 | Only player from Bengals' 2022 draft class to play in every game; made nine starts. |
| 93 | Gunter, Jeff (E) | 6-4 | 263 | 2 | Coastal Carolina | 10/0/1/5 | D7 22 | D7 CIN 22 | Played in 10 games as rookie, mainly on special teams, but was inactive for playoffs. |
| **91** | **Hendrickson, Trey (E)** | **6-4** | **270** | **7** | **Florida Atlantic** | **15/15/0/1** | **UFA,NORL 21** | **D3 NORL 17** | **Premier pass rusher with 22 sacks over past two seasons, ranking eighth most in NFL.** |
| **92** | **Hill, B.J. (T)** | **6-3** | **311** | **6** | **North Carolina State** | **16/16** | **T, NYG 21** | **D3 NYG 18** | **Productive first season as full-time starter; helped run defense and had 3.0 sacks.** |
| **94** | **Hubbard, Sam (E)** | **6-5** | **265** | **6** | **Ohio State** | **15/15/0/1** | **D3 18** | **D3 CIN 18** | **A top run-stopping end with 23 TFLs over past two seasons to go with 14.0 sacks.** |
| 99 | Murphy, Myles (E) | 6-5 | 270 | R | Clemson | 0/0 | D1 23 | D1 CIN 23 | Fast, versatile edge defender who will immediately factor into rotation. |
| 58 | Ossai, Joseph (E) | 6-4 | 263 | 3 | Texas | 16/0 | D3 21 | D3 CIN 21 | An athletic pass rusher who played all 19 games after missing entire rookie season. |
| **98** | **Reader, D.J. (NT)** | **6-3** | **335** | **8** | **Clemson** | **10/10/0/0** | **UFA,HOUS 20** | **D5 HOUS 16** | **Driving force behind Bengals ranking in top 10 in NFL in run defense past two seasons.** |
| 96 | Sample, Cam (E) | 6-3 | 272 | 3 | Tulane | 16/1 | D4 21 | D4 CIN 21 | Rotational edge in 30 games past two seasons; had a sack in the AFC title game. |
| 97 | Tufele, Jay (T) | 6-3 | 305 | 3 | Southern Cal | 7/2/4/5 | W, JAX 22 | D4 JAX 21 | Played seven games as depth piece; started two games when Reader was out injured. |
| 68 | Tupou, Josh (NT) | 6-3 | 340 | 6 | Colorado | 11/6/0/5 | FA 17 | CFA CIN 17 | Missed five games because of calf injury, but a reliable run-stopper when healthy. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 49 | Bachie, Joe | 6-2 | 235 | 3 | Michigan State | 10/0/0/0 | FA 21 | CFA NORL 20 | Missed first six weeks because of 2021 knee injury; played key role on special teams. |
| 51 | Bailey, Markus | 6-0 | 235 | 4 | Purdue | 16/1 | D7 20 | D7 CIN 20 | Has grown into key reserve role on defense and valuable asset on special teams. |
| 59 | Davis-Gaither, Akeem | 6-2 | 228 | 4 | Appalachian State | 16/1 | D4 20 | D4 CIN 20 | Came back from 2021 left foot injury to play entire season, making 37 total tackles. |
| **57** | **Pratt, Germaine** | **6-3** | **250** | **5** | **North Carolina State** | **15/15/0/1** | **D3 19** | **D3 CIN 19** | **Key re-signing this offseason to shore up middle of defense after career fourth year.** |
| **55** | **Wilson, Logan** | **6-2** | **245** | **4** | **Wyoming** | **15/15/0/1** | **D3 20** | **D3 CIN 20** | **Had labrum surgery last February and led team in tackles for second straight season.** |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 | *Anderson, Tycen (S) | 6-2 | 209 | 2 | Toledo | 0/0/0/0 | D5 22 | D5 CIN 22 | Speedy safety; missed entire rookie season because of hamstring injury in preseason. |
| **22** | ***Awuzie, Chidobe (CB)** | **6-0** | **202** | **7** | **Colorado** | **8/8/0/0** | **UFA,DALL 21** | **D2 DALL 17** | **Lockdown corner was having arguably his best season before tearing ACL in Game 8.** |
| 27 | Battle, Jordan (S) | 6-1 | 210 | R | Alabama | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 CIN 23 | Versatile safety who made 37 straight starts as talented leader for Alabama defense. |
| 35 | Davis, Jalen (CB) | 5-10 | 190 | 4 | Utah State | 13/0/0/3 | FA 20 | CFA MIA 18 | Reserve DB and special-teams contributor who has played 36 games since 2020 arrival. |
| 42 | George, Allan (CB) | 5-11 | 191 | 2 | Vanderbilt | 4/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA CIN 22 | Spent 12 games on practice squad as rookie, but played four contests late in season. |
| **23** | **Hill, Dax (S)** | **6-0** | **191** | **2** | **Michigan** | **15/2/0/1** | **D1 22** | **D1 CIN 22** | **Moved around to fill different roles as rookie; now looks to settle at free safety.** |
| **21** | **Hilton, Mike (CB)** | **5-9** | **184** | **7** | **Mississippi** | **14/4/0/2** | **UFA,PITT 21** | **CFA JAX 16** | **A top-tackling nickel CB regarded as outstanding blitzer despite his small stature.** |
| 38 | Ivey, DJ (CB) | 6-1 | 192 | R | Miami | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 CIN 23 | Solid late-round draft pick with good size; forced four turnovers as senior at Miami. |
| 24 | Jones IV, Sidney (CB) | 6-0 | 181 | 6 | Washington | 10/2/1/6 | UFA,LV 23 | D2 PHA 17 | Brings experience, depth to young cornerback room, but has struggled with injuries. |
| **33** | ***Scott, Nick (S)** | **5-11** | **200** | **5** | **Penn State** | **16/16/0/0** | **UFA,LAR 23** | **D7 LAR 19** | **Emerged as starting strong safety last season with Rams; forced four turnovers.** |
| **29** | **Taylor-Britt, Cam (CB)** | **5-11** | **202** | **2** | **Nebraska** | **10/9/0/2** | **D2 22** | **D2 CIN 22** | **Opened rookie season on IR, but stepped up with Awuzie out and started 12 total games.** |
| 31 | Thomas, Michael J. (S) | 5-11 | 192 | 9 | Stanford | 16/0 | UFA,NYG 20 | CFA SF 12 | Veteran safety and leader on special teams; seven-time captain with four teams. |
| 20 | Turner, DJ (CB) | 5-11 | 180 | R | Michigan | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 CIN 23 | Fastest player at 2023 NFL Combine; adds depth at slot and outside cornerback spots. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 48 | Adomitis, Cal (LS) | 6-2 | 238 | 2 | Pittsburgh | 15/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA CIN 22 | Became team's new long snapper in Week 2; had zero unplayable snaps in 146 attempts. |
| 4 | Chrisman, Drue (P) | 6-3 | 211 | 2 | Ohio State | 7/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA CIN 21 | Took over at punter in Week 11; averaged 47.8 yards per punt with 13 inside the 20. |
| 2 | McPherson, Evan (K) | 5-11 | 185 | 3 | Florida | 16/0 | D5 21 | D5 CIN 21 | Missed four PATs, five field-goal attempts in slump after standout rookie season. |
| 10 | Robbins, Brad (P) | 6-1 | 205 | R | Michigan | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 CIN 23 | Second-best hang time among college punters in 2022; also brings experience holding. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; SD=Supplemental Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WR Kwamie Lassiter II (1, Kansas); TE Nick Bowers (2, Penn State); T Devin Cochran (1, Pittsburgh); G Nate Gilliam (1, Wake Forest); DE Raymond Johnson III (2, Georgia Southern); DT Domenique Davis (1, North Carolina, Pembroke); LBs Owen Carney (1, Illinois), Keandre Jones (1, Maryland); CB Marvell Tell III (2, Southern Cal); S Yusuf Corker (1, Kentucky)

Ja'Marr Chase
Photo by Joe Robbins

explosiveness and Boyd's third-down efficiency. And the Bengals finally addressed the need for a true fourth receiver. They drafted Purdue's Charlie Jones in the fourth round and added a developmental project in Princeton standout athlete Andrei Iosivas. The tight-end spot, where oft-injured Irv Smith Jr. was signed as Hayden Hurst's replacement, would be a bigger knock on this unit if it mattered more. Burrow made the last two starters look good enough to earn long-term deals elsewhere, and the Bengals have been able to find serviceable replacements with something to prove. The big surprise was not drafting a young tight end to develop.

**RATING: 9.5**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Bengals were better up front in 2022, but still not elite. Brown helps, joining a group that returns left guard Cordell Volson, center Ted Karras and right guard Alex Cappa, but the right-tackle spot remains unsettled with La'el Collins trying to come back from major knee surgery and Jonah Williams expected to compete with Jackson Carman and free-agent addition Cody Ford for that job. Williams, despite a trade request and minor offseason knee surgery, will try to make the transition from left tackle, as will Carman. The Bengals seem to believe the solution is there somewhere — they didn't draft an offensive lineman as many expected. The hope is Cincinnati also has more depth in 2023 with the two free-agent additions bolstering the unit.

**RATING: 7.5**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

It was a down year for the group in terms of finishing off sacks, which reflected negatively on the overall effectiveness of the pass rush, but the Bengals ranked third in

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

**KEY ADDITION:**
**T Orlando Brown Jr.**
The Bengals had faced Brown, a four-time Pro Bowler, twice a year since 2018, and now they snagged him to improve Burrow's blind-side protection — the one spot that hadn't been addressed in 2022.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**
DE Tarell Basham, G/T Cody Ford, CB Sidney Jones IV, S Nick Scott, QB Trevor Siemian, TE Irv Smith Jr.

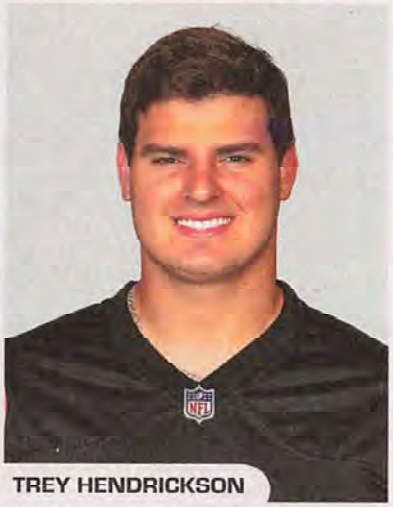
**KEY LOSS:**
**S Jessie Bates III (16/16)***
Bates' departure was expected and planned for, but he's not an easy player to replace. He has been one of the league's best safeties over his career and a leader for the defense.

**OTHER LOSSES:**
QB Brandon Allen (1/0), **CB Eli Apple (15/15)**, **S Vonn Bell (16/16)**, CB Tre Flowers (15/0), LS Clark Harris (1/0), RB Elijah Holyfield (0/0), **TE Hayden Hurst (13/13)**, LB Clay Johnston (16/0), CB Chris Lammons (0/0), RB Samaje Perine (16/2), CB Brandon Wilson (0/0), TE Mitchell Wilcox (16/4)*
**Total games played/started lost: 125/66**

**STARTERS RETURNING**
18: 10 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS



TREY HENDRICKSON

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| PASSING | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Joe Burrow | 606 | 414 | 4475 | 35 | 12 |

| RUSHING | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Joe Mixon | 210 | 814 | 3.9 | 7 |
| Samaje Perine | 95 | 394 | 4.2 | 2 |
| Joe Burrow | 75 | 257 | 3.4 | 5 |

| RECEIVING | REC | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ja'Marr Chase | 87 | 1046 | 12 | 9 |
| Tee Higgins | 74 | 1029 | 13.9 | 7 |
| Tyler Boyd | 58 | 762 | 13.1 | 5 |
| Joe Mixon | 60 | 441 | 7.4 | 2 |

**Kicking:** McPherson 40/44 XPs, 24/29 FGs, 112 points
**Tackles:** Wilson 123, Pratt 99, Bell 77
**Sacks:** Hendrickson 8, Hubbard 6.5, Ossai 3.5
**INTs:** Bell 4, Bates III 4, Pratt 2

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 360.5 | 8 |
| Passing Offense | 265 | 5 |
| Rushing Offense | 95.5 | 29 |
| Points | 26.1 | 7 |
| Sacked | 44 | T-20 |
| 3rd Down % | 46.1 | 3 |

| Defense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Defense | 335.7 | 16 |
| Passing Defense | 229.1 | 23 |
| Rushing Defense | 106.6 | 7 |
| Points Allowed | 20.1 | T-5 |
| INTs | 13 | 18 |
| Sacks | 30 | 29 |
| Turnover Diff. | +6 | 6 |

opponent passer rating and 13th in pressure percentage. Anarumo thought that was a better indication of the strength of the pass rush; however, it was an area for improvement. The Bengals addressed that by drafting Myles Murphy in the first round as an inside/outside option to immediately add to the mix and in third-down packages, and if Joseph Ossai can stay healthy, Cincinnati should have a nice rotation going behind Trey Hendrickson and Sam Hubbard, both quality defensive ends. Inside, the Bengals just need to stay healthy. D.J. Reader is an immovable force in the run defense and B.J. Hill can do more if he's able to rotate out more often in 2023.

**RATING: 8**

## LINEBACKERS

Germaine Pratt was a surprise return to the defense as someone many thought would depart for a bigger contract and more third-down opportunities after a career year, but the Bengals rewarded one of their own. His return is huge considering the departures in the secondary. Pratt and Logan Wilson, who returned from offseason shoulder surgery last year to lead the team in tackles for a second straight season, really lock things down in the middle of Anarumo's defense. The two starters aren't the flashiest defenders, but have been reliable playmakers, especially in important moments. Behind them is some quality depth with Akeem Davis-Gaither and Markus Bailey perhaps deserving of more opportunities.

**RATING: 7.5**

## SECONDARY

With Chidobe Awuzie coming back from ACL surgery and Taylor-Britt preparing for his first full season as a starter, the Bengals needed to add depth at cornerback and did so by signing free agent Sidney Jones IV and drafting Michigan's DJ Turner II in the second round. Awuzie is on track to be ready for the start of the season, but the Bengals needed some insurance and are better prepared for the unknown in 2023. The safety spots seemed set with Nick Scott joining in free agency and Hill expected to replace Bates, but the addition of Alabama safety Jordan Battle adds much needed competition and opens up Anarumo's playbook. Turner, Scott and Hill are all super fast, so this secondary also is better equipped to handle those speedy receivers taking over the NFL.

**RATING: 7**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Evan McPherson experienced a sophomore slump after a fantastic rookie season in 2021, but there doesn't seem to be any long-term concern. He also had a new long snapper to adjust to after Clark Harris suffered a season-ending biceps injury in the opener and a new holder when punter Drue Chrisman replaced Kevin Huber, so perhaps Year 2 with long snapper Cal Adomitis and possibly a better holder puts him into a better rhythm. Cincinnati drafted Michigan punter Brad Robbins to compete with Chrisman and appears to be an upgrade based on reviews of his hangtime and experience holding for a third-round draft pick (Jake Moody) at Michigan. The draft gave Cincinnati another kickoff/punt return option with Jones being a Big Ten Return Specialist of the Year in 2021. Punt returner Trent Taylor was among the top six in the league in return yards per game and is back, but the kickoff returner job, split last year between Evans and Williams, could be up for grabs.

**RATING: 7**

## INTANGIBLES

The "Joe Burrow effect" is real. Guys want to play with Burrow, and that's been a nice recruiting tool in free agency the past two seasons, helping the organization land quality players at perhaps a bit of a discount for a chance to play with a proven winner. The Bengals have built their roster under Taylor with leaders and players who love the game, have something to prove and come from winning backgrounds. Just about everything around the franchise has gotten better since Burrow arrived.

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Laurel Pfahler

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Who plays right tackle? With uncertainty surrounding La'el Collins' future post-knee surgery, the right-tackle opening is the one position on the line that remains unsettled. Defenses seemed to pick apart that spot last year and Joe Burrow needs better protection from whomever wins the job.

2. How will the rebuilt secondary perform? The Bengals are replacing one of the best safety tandems in the league and counting on a lot of youth stepping up in the secondary. Dax Hill and Cam Taylor-Britt, both second-year players, are two of the five projected starters.

3. Can the pass rush return to 2021 form? After ranking in a tie for 10th in most team sacks in 2021, Cincinnati had the fourth-lowest sack total last season. Myles Murphy was drafted in the first round to add to the edge rotation and third-down packages.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 14-5**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | PITTSBURGH (OT) | 20-23 |
| Sept. 18 | at Dallas | 17-20 |
| Sept. 25 | at N.Y. Jets | 27-12 |
| Sept. 29 | MIAMI | 27-15 |
| Oct. 9 | at Baltimore | 17-19 |
| Oct. 16 | at New Orleans | 30-26 |
| Oct. 23 | ATLANTA | 35-17 |
| Oct. 31 | at Cleveland | 13-32 |
| Nov. 6 | CAROLINA | 42-21 |
| Nov. 20 | at Pittsburgh | 37-30 |
| Nov. 27 | at Tennessee | 20-16 |
| Dec. 4 | KANSAS CITY | 27-24 |
| Dec. 11 | CLEVELAND | 23-10 |
| Dec. 18 | at Tampa Bay | 34-23 |
| Dec. 24 | at New England | 22-18 |
| Jan. 8 | BALTIMORE | 27-16 |
| Jan. 15 | BALTIMORE | 24-17 |
| Jan. 22 | at Buffalo | 17-10 |
| Jan. 29 | at Kansas City | 20-23 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Eastern**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | GREEN BAY | TBD |
| Aug. 17-21 | at Atlanta | TBD |
| Aug. 24-27 | at Washington | TBD |
| Sept. 10 | at Cleveland | 1:00 |
| Sept. 17 | BALTIMORE | 1:00 |
| Sept. 25 | L.A. RAMS (Mon) | 8:15 |
| Oct. 1 | at Tennessee | 1:00 |
| Oct. 8 | at Arizona | 4:05 |
| Oct. 15 | SEATTLE | 1:00 |
| | BYE | |
| Oct. 29 | at San Francisco | 4:25 |
| Nov. 5 | BUFFALO | 8:20 |
| Nov. 12 | HOUSTON | 1:00 |
| Nov. 16 | at Baltimore (Thu) | 8:15 |
| Nov. 26 | PITTSBURGH | 1:00 |
| Dec. 4 | at Jacksonville (Mon) | 8:15 |
| Dec. 10 | INDIANAPOLIS | 1:00 |
| Dec. 16/17 | MINNESOTA | TBD |
| Dec. 23 | at Pittsburgh (Sat) | 4:30 |
| Dec. 31 | at Kansas City | 4:25 |
| TBD | CLEVELAND | TBD |

# CLEVELAND BROWNS

## Browns Hope This is Watson's Redemption Tour

The Browns have no more excuses to not make the playoffs after a two-year absence, and team owner Jimmy Haslam has made it clear he expects his team to play more than 17 games this season.

Haslam stopped short of saying jobs could be on the line if the Browns fail to qualify, but he will be very disappointed if they don't advance in Deshaun Watson's second season as the team's quarterback.

"We have expectations to go to the playoffs," Haslam said. "But I'm not going to say if we don't make the playoffs, X, Y, Z happens because that'll be the headline."

Watson served an 11-game suspension last season for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy and then was mediocre while going 3-3 as a starter. His first start, coincidentally against his former team, the Texans, was exactly 700 days since his previous start. Rust was a handy excuse.

The Browns beefed up their wide receiving corps by trading for Elijah Moore, signing Marquise Goodwin and drafting Cedric Tillman. Defensive coordinator Joe Woods was fired and replaced by Jim Schwartz. Bubba Ventrone replaced fired special-teams coordinator Mike Priefer.

Upgrading the defensive line was a top priority. General manager Andrew Berry checked that box by signing tackle Dalvin Tomlinson and defensive end Obo Okoronkwo.

The 2020 season, Kevin Stefanski's first as head coach, marked the first time since 2002 that the Browns were in the playoffs. Everything is in place for them to make a return engagement in 2023.

**Nick Chubb**

Photo by Scott Boehm via AP

**3**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2021 RECORD:** 7-10

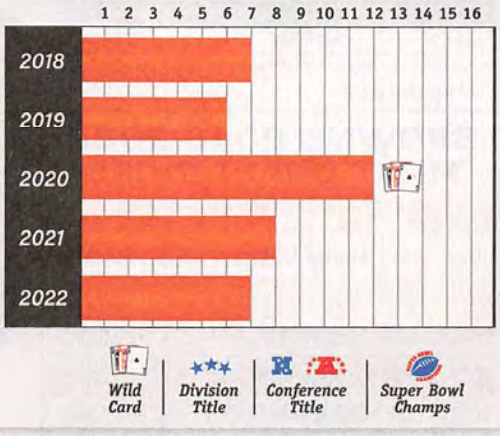
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 3-3

**STADIUM:** Cleveland Browns Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 67,431

**SURFACE:** Grass

**WINS PER YEAR**



## AT A GLANCE

76 LOU GROZA BOULEVARD
BEREA, OH 44017
(440) 824-3434
WWW.CLEVELANDBROWNS.COM

**TRAINING CAMP:** Cross Country Mortgage Campus; Berea, OH
**HEAD COACH:** Kevin Stefanski
- 4th season as NFL head coach
- 27-25 overall; 1-1 postseason

**MANAGING/PRINCIPAL PARTNERS:** Jimmy Haslam, Dee Haslam
**EVP FOOTBALL OPS/GM:** Andrew Berry
**ASST. GM/VP PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Glenn Cook
**ASST. GM/VP FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:** Catherine Raiche
**SR. PERSONNEL/COACHING EXEC.:** Bob Quinn
**SR. EXECUTIVE ADVISOR TO GM:** Jimmy Raye
**DIR. PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Dan Saganey
**DIR. COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Max Paulus
**DIR. PRO SCOUTING:** Adam Al-Khayyal

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alex Van Pelt | Offensive coordinator | 19 | 4 |
| Bill Musgrave | Sr. offensive assistant | 21 | 1 |
| Kevin Rogers | Sr. asst./special proj. | 9 | 4 |
| Bill Callahan | Offensive line | 25 | 4 |
| Scott Peters | Assistant line | 4 | 4 |
| Stump Mitchell | @Running backs | 22 | 5 |
| Chad O'Shea | #Receivers | 21 | 4 |
| Callie Brownson | Asst. receivers | 5 | 4 |
| T.C. McCartney | Tight ends | 9 | 5 |
| Jonathan Decoster | Offensive assistant | 3 | 3 |
| Ashton Grant | Offensive asst./QBs | 4 | 4 |
| Jim Schwartz | Defensive coord. | 27 | 4 |
| Ben Bloom | Defensive line | 15 | 6 |
| Jordan Thomas | Assistant line | 2 | 2 |
| Jason Tarver | Linebackers | 20 | 4 |
| Brandon Lynch | Cornerbacks | 4 | 4 |
| Ephraim Banda | Safeties | 1 | 1 |
| Zach Dunn | Defensive assistant | 4 | 4 |
| Jeff Anderson | Def. quality control | 2 | 2 |
| Bubba Ventrone | *Special teams coord. | 9 | 5 |
| Stephen Bravo-Brown | Asst. special teams | 4 | 4 |
| Larry Jackson | Dir. S&C | 7 | 6 |
| Shaun Huls | Dir. high performance | 11 | 4 |
| Josh Christovich | Asst. S&C/sports science | 8 | 8 |
| Monty Gibson | Asst. S&C | 6 | 6 |
| Dale Jones | Asst. S&C | 6 | 6 |
| Ty Taylor | Asst. S&C | 5 | 4 |

@ Run game coordinator # Offensive pass game coordinator
*Assistant head coach

## BROWNS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 3/68 | Martin Emerson | CB | Backup |
| 2021 | 1/26 | Greg Newsome II | CB | Starter |
| 2020 | 1/10 | Jedrick Wills | T | Starter |
| 2019 | 2/46 | Greedy Williams | CB | Eagles |
| 2018 | 1/1 | Baker Mayfield | QB | Buccaneers |

## COACHING

Continuity was key for the coaching staff in 2021 and 2022 after the Browns finished 11-5 and made the playoffs in 2020, but after two losing seasons, Stefanski figured it was time to shake things up. Schwartz's aggressive style, without relying heavily on blitzing, should result in more than the 34 sacks produced last year. Confusion in the secondary led directly to losses. Likewise, unforced errors led to Priefer getting the boot in favor of Ventrone. Ventrone was a special-teams ace for the Browns from 2009-12. He won't put up with slackers. Last but certainly not least, Stefanski and offensive coordinator Alex Van Pelt were able to customize the offense for Watson in the offseason, knowing they will have him for a full season.

**RATING: 7.5**

## QUARTERBACKS

Watson is confident he can replicate his 2020 season in Houston when he threw 33 touchdown passes and passed for more than 4,800 yards. He did not play in 2021 and played only six games last season. With his legal troubles mostly behind him, Watson is reenergized. He spent part of the offseason with Browns receivers in Houston working out on their own. He said the comfort level between a year ago and now "is like night and day."

The Browns will take advantage of Watson's mobility and his threat to run at any time. Watson has immersed himself in the community as he tries to repair his image from the sexual misconduct accusations that led to his suspension. Re-signing Joshua Dobbs to be Watson's backup means the coaches don't have to break in another quarterback.

**RATING: 8**

## RUNNING BACKS

Nick Chubb rushed for 12 touchdowns in the 11 games Jacoby Brissett started at quarterback, but none after Watson took over. The Browns were a run-first offense the last three years with Chubb and Kareem Hunt in the backfield. Hunt was not re-signed when he hit free agency. Stefanski might be shifting to make Watson the focal point of the offense, but he and Van Pelt will still feature Chubb.

Chubb rushed 302 times for 1,525 yards last season; both personal bests. He averaged five yards after contact, which was the most in the NFL for anyone with 225-plus carries. With Hunt not re-signed and D'Ernest Johnson now in Jacksonville, the Browns are going to rely on Jerome Ford to be Chubb's primary backup. Ford carried the ball only

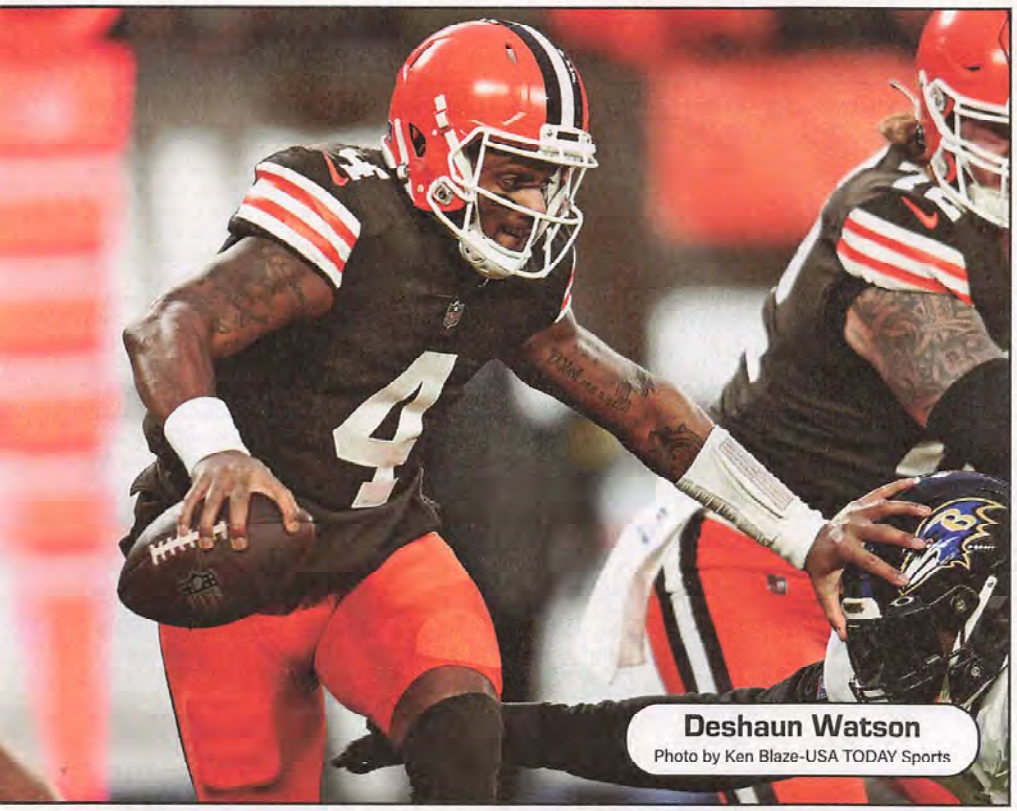
## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

Former second-round pick WR Elijah Moore never found his footing with the Jets. He was acquired by Cleveland during the offseason, in hopes of providing a threat from the slot. With starting WRs Amari Cooper and Donovan Peoples-Jones lined up on the outside, there won't be as much attention paid to Moore, who has the ability to stretch the opposing defense due to his speed. When you factor TE **David Njoku** into the equation, the Browns have set up QB DeShaun Watson for success. ... On the other side of the ball, CB **Greg Newsome II** will be counted on to step into the slot defender role full-time. After gripes about how he was used at times during last season, Newsome has taken a fresh approach during the offseason and appears trending towards a career year under new defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz. ... One player whose role is unclear in the new scheme is LB **Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah**. However, the team has faith he can be a future star with his traits. Whether Schwartz employs him at linebacker or safety in a full-time capacity, or keeps him in a hybrid role remains to be seen.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

JEDRICK WILLS

The left tackle has had mixed reviews in his first three years in the league. Wills was selected 10th overall in the 2020 draft. He played right tackle at Alabama, but was switched to left tackle in part because the Browns signed right tackle Jack Conklin in free agency in 2020. Wills said he "played like trash" as a rookie, and then he was bothered by a nagging injury his second season. He had some difficulty last year extending his pass blocking when Deshaun Watson took over at quarterback for the final six games. The Browns picked up his guaranteed fifth-year option for 2024, but whether he gets an extension could depend on how he plays this season.



Deshaun Watson
Photo by Ken Blaze-USA TODAY Sports

eight times last season. The Browns will be in trouble if Chubb gets injured.

**RATING: 7.5**

## RECEIVERS

Adding more targets for Watson was a close second to upgrading the defensive line. Moore can catch the ball in tight spaces and turn a short pass into a long gain. Goodwin is 32-years-old, but he still has speed to be a downfield threat. They used their first draft pick, albeit 74 overall, on wide receiver Cedric Tillman — at 6-foot-3 the Browns' tallest receiver. Tight end Jordan Akins was another free-agent score. Akins and David Njoku could give linebackers fits when they're on the field together.

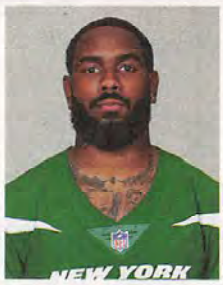
Amari Cooper set a career high with nine touchdown catches and 1,160 receiving yards last season. Donovan Peoples-Jones' playing time could diminish with the addition of Goodwin and Tillman, but at 6-foot-2, with great leaping ability, he will be a red-zone threat.

**RATING: 7.5**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The line has been the backbone of the Browns offense for the last three years. All the starters from last season — left tackle Jedrick Wills, left guard Joel Bitonio, center Ethan Pocic, right guard Wyatt Teller and right tackle Jack Conklin — are back. Playing in front of Watson the final six games last season gave them a preview of what it will be like pass blocking for him this season. They will have to hold their blocks longer than they did when Brissett was the

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES




**KEY ADDITION:**

**WR Elijah Moore**

Moore has speed and quickness to turn short passes into long gains. The Browns lacked that weapon before acquiring Moore and a 2023 fourth-round pick from the Jets for a 2023 third-round pick.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**

LB Matthew Adams, TE Jordan Akins, QB Joshua Dobbs, CB Mike Ford, WR Marquise Goodwin, G Colby Gossett, DT Trysten Hill, DT Maurice Hurst, G Wes Martin, S Rodney McLeod, WR Elijah Moore, DE Ogbonnia Okoronkwo, S Juan Thornhill, DT Dalvin Tomlinson

**KEY LOSS:**

**DT Taven Bryan (16/16)***

Bryan started 16 games last season. He wasn't flashy, but he showed he can tie up blockers. He registered 26 tackles, three sacks and six quarterback hits. Bryan signed with the Colts.

**OTHER LOSSES:**

**QB Jacoby Brissett (16/11)**, TE Pharaoh Brown (13/5), LB Jermaine Carter (7/1), DE **Jadeveon Clowney (12/10)**, LB Tae Davis (5/0), C/G Hjalte Froholdt (17/6), S Ronnie Harrison (16/5), T Chris Hubbard (4/1), RB Kareem Hunt (17/0), TE Jesse James (2/0), RB D'Ernest Johnson (15/0), **S John Johnson III (17/17)**, LB Deion Jones (11/5), LB Jordan Kunasczyk (15/2), DE Chris Odom (0/0), LB Reggie Ragland (4/2), LB Stephen Weatherley (0/0), CB Greedy Williams (11/0), DE Chase Winovich (8/2)*

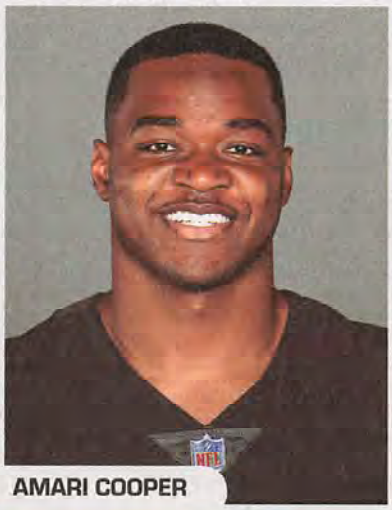
**Total games played/started lost: 206/83**

**STARTERS RETURNING**

18: 10 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS



AMARI COOPER

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jacoby Brissett | 369 | 236 | 2608 | 12 | 6 |
| Deshaun Watson | 170 | 99 | 1102 | 7 | 5 |
| **Rushing** | **Att** | | **Yds** | **Avg** | **TD** |
| Nick Chubb | 302 | | 1525 | 5.1 | 12 |
| Kareem Hunt | 123 | | 468 | 3.8 | 3 |
| Jacoby Brissett | 49 | | 243 | 5 | 2 |
| **Receiving** | **Rec** | | **Yds** | **Avg** | **TD** |
| Amari Cooper | 78 | | 1160 | 14.9 | 9 |
| Donovan Peoples-Jones | 61 | | 839 | 13.8 | 3 |
| David Njoku | 58 | | 628 | 10.8 | 4 |
| Nick Chubb | 27 | | 239 | 8.9 | 1 |

**Kicking:** York 35/37 XPs, 24/32 FGs, 107 points
**Tackles:** Delpit 101, Johnson 96, Owusu-Koramoah 70
**Sacks:** Garrett 16, Bryan 3, Jones 2.5
**INTs:** Delpit 4, Ward 3, three tied with 1

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 349.1 | 14 |
| Passing Offense | 202.6 | 22 |
| Rushing Offense | 146.5 | 6 |
| Points | 21.2 | 18 |
| Sacked | 44 | T-20 |
| 3rd Down % | 38.1 | 19 |
| **Defense** | **Stat** | **Rank** |
| Total Defense | 331.5 | 14 |
| Passing Defense | 196.2 | 5 |
| Rushing Defense | 135.2 | 25 |
| Points Allowed | 22.4 | 20 |
| INTs | 11 | T-21 |
| Sacks | 34 | T-27 |
| Turnover Diff. | -1 | T-16 |

# BROWNS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **84** | **Akins, Jordan (TE)** | **6-4** | **245** | **6** | **Central Florida** | **15/7/0/0** | **UFA,HOUS 23** | **D3 HOUS 18** | **Three years playing in Houston with Deshaun Watson is going to be a plus for Akins.** |
| 18 | Bell, David | 6-1 | 212 | 2 | Purdue | 16/3/0/1 | D3 22 | D3 CLV 22 | Bell is a sure-handed possession receiver capable of moving the chains on third down. |
| 88 | Bryant, Harrison (TE) | 6-5 | 230 | 4 | Florida Atlantic | 17/9 | D4 20 | D4 CLV 20 | Bryant has proven in his three seasons he is more than just a short-yardage blocker. |
| **2** | **Cooper, Amari** | **6-1** | **211** | **9** | **Alabama** | **17/17** | **T,DALL 22** | **D1 OAK 15** | **Cooper, the vet teammates look to for leadership, is a perfectionist as a route-runner.** |
| 16 | Darden, Jaelon (RS) | 5-8 | 175 | 3 | North Texas | 14/0/0/3 | W,TB 22 | D4 TB 21 | Darden has never let being 5-foot-8 hold him back from fighting for the football. |
| 19 | *Goodwin, Marquise | 5-9 | 185 | 10 | Texas | 13/2/0/2 | UFA,SEA 23 | D3 BUFF 13 | The Browns lacked a receiver with blazing speed until they landed Goodwin in March. |
| 9 | *Grant Sr., Jakeem (RS) | 5-6 | 170 | 8 | Texas Tech | 0/0/0/0 | UFA,CHI 22 | D6 MIA 16 | Grant's main job will be as a returner, but the Browns know he catches passes, too. |
| **8** | **Moore, Elijah** | **5-10** | **180** | **3** | **Mississippi** | **16/9/0/1** | **T,NYJ 23** | **D2 NYJ 21** | **Moore is happy for a change of scenery after a frustrating season with the Jets.** |
| **85** | **Njoku, David (TE)** | **6-4** | **246** | **7** | **Miami** | **14/14/0/3** | **D1 17** | **D1 CLV 17** | **Njoku makes spectacular catches, but he has to concentrate better on the easy ones.** |
| 11 | Peoples-Jones, Donovan (RS) | 6-2 | 204 | 4 | Michigan | 17/14 | D6 20 | D6 CLV 20 | DPJ had a career-best 61 catches last season and wants to build on that success. |
| 10 | *Schwartz, Anthony | 6-0 | 186 | 3 | Auburn | 11/1/0/1 | D3 21 | D3 CLV 21 | Dropped passes the first two years puts Schwartz' job in jeopardy this training camp. |
| 89 | Tillman, Cedric | 6-3 | 215 | R | Tennessee | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 CLV 23 | Tillman's size trumps his 4.56 40-speed as far as the Browns coaches are concerned. |
| 81 | *Weston, Isaiah | 6-4 | 214 | 2 | Northern Iowa | 0/0/0/0 | CFA 22 | CFA CLV 22 | Weston will be a candidate for the practice squad if he impresses in training camp. |
| 12 | Woods II, Michael | 6-1 | 204 | 2 | Oklahoma | 10/0/0/7 | D6 22 | D6 CLV 22 | Woods will miss all of 2023 after rupturing his Achilles tendon in the offseason. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **75** | **Bitonio, Joel (LG)** | **6-4** | **320** | **10** | **Nevada** | **17/17** | **D2 14** | **D2 CLV 14** | **Bitonio, approaching his 10th season, is an iron-man for the Browns at left guard.** |
| **78** | **Conklin, Jack (RT)** | **6-6** | **308** | **8** | **Michigan State** | **14/14/0/3** | **UFA,TENN 20** | **D1 TENN 16** | **Conklin plays to the whistle. He'll play with pain and make the running attack work.** |
| 52 | *Deaton, Dawson (G) | 6-1 | 306 | 2 | Texas Tech | 0/0/0/0 | D7 22 | D7 CLV 22 | Deaton is trying to bounce back after tearing his ACL in training camp last summer. |
| 68 | *Dunn, Michael (G) | 6-5 | 315 | 4 | Maryland | 8/2/0/1 | FA 23 | CFA LAR 17 | Dunn can back up all three interior positions. A back injury sidelined him last year. |
| 70 | Forbes, Drew (T) | 6-5 | 308 | 4 | Southeast Missouri | 10/0/2/3 | W,DET 22 | D6 CLV 19 | Forbes has played in only 13 of a possible 66 games, but the coaches believe in him. |
| 72 | Gossett, Colby (G) | 6-5 | 330 | 4 | Appalachian State | 17/4 | FA 23 | D6 MINN 18 | Gossett was on the Browns practice squad in 2019. He heads to camp with higher goals. |
| 59 | *Haeg, Joe (G) | 6-6 | 304 | 8 | North Dakota State | 1/0/1/5 | FA 22 | D5 IND 16 | The veteran hasn't been a starter since 2017. The Browns like Haeg as insurance. |
| 53 | *Harris, Nick (C) | 6-1 | 293 | 3 | Washington | 0/0/0/0 | D5 20 | D5 CLV 20 | Harris was the starting center in 2022 training camp. He's a backup this summer. |
| 66 | Hudson III, James (T) | 6-5 | 313 | 3 | Cincinnati | 17/3 | D4 21 | D4 CLV 21 | Hudson has developed into a player that can fill in solidly at both tackle spots. |
| 74 | Jones, Dawand (T) | 6-8 | 374 | R | Ohio State | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 CLV 23 | Jones, at 374 pounds, will fit the description when Browns are in jumbo formation. |
| 67 | Martin, Wes (G) | 6-3 | 315 | 5 | Indiana | 6/0/0/0 | UFA,WSH 23 | D4 WSH 19 | Martin is an experienced veteran who will be fighting for a backup job at guard. |
| **55** | **Pocic, Ethan (C)** | **6-6** | **320** | **7** | **Louisiana State** | **13/13/0/0** | **UFA,SEA 22** | **D2 SEA 17** | **Pocic played so well for them last season the Browns signed him for three more years.** |
| **77** | **Teller, Wyatt (RG)** | **6-4** | **315** | **6** | **Virginia Tech** | **15/15/0/2** | **T,BUFF 19** | **D5 BUFF 18** | **Teller is a grinder. He has been one of the league's best run blockers for three years.** |
| **71** | **Wills Jr., Jedrick (LT)** | **6-4** | **307** | **4** | **Alabama** | **17/17** | **D1 20** | **D1 CLV 20** | **Wills' development has been greatly enhanced by working with OL coach Bill Callahan.** |
| 56 | Wypler, Luke (C) | 6-3 | 303 | R | Ohio State | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 CLV 23 | Wypler, the Browns' final pick of 2023, has skills to be their future starting center. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **24** | **Chubb, Nick** | **5-11** | **227** | **6** | **Georgia** | **17/17** | **D2 18** | **D2 CLV 18** | **Quiet Nick Chubb has consistently been one of the best backs in the NFL since 2018.** |
| 25 | Felton Jr., Demetric | 5-9 | 190 | 3 | UCLA | 8/2/0/9 | D6 21 | D6 CLV 21 | Felton's versatility to also line up as a wide receiver keeps defenses guessing. |
| 34 | Ford, Jerome | 5-11 | 210 | 2 | Cincinnati | 13/0/0/0 | D5 22 | D5 CLV 22 | Ford has to be ready to be Chubb's backup after getting only eight carries last year. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | Dobbs, Joshua | 6-3 | 220 | 7 | Tennessee | 2/2/12/1 | UFA,TENN 23 | D4 PITT 17 | Dobbs grasps the offense and has the poise to start if an injury sidelines Watson. |
| 7 | Mond, Kellen | 6-3 | 217 | 3 | Texas A&M | 0/0/0/17 | W,MINN 22 | D3 MINN 21 | Landing a secure job on the practice squad would keep Mond busy in the season ahead. |
| 17 | Thompson-Robinson, Dorian | 6-2 | 203 | R | UCLA | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 CLV 23 | The confident rookie from UCLA is mobile and can throw accurate passes on the run. |
| **4** | **Watson, Deshaun** | **6-3** | **223** | **7** | **Clemson** | **6/6/0/0** | **D1 17** | **D1 HOUS 17** | **Watson is all in to prove the Browns spent wisely by investing $230 million in him.** |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 65 | Dwumfour, Michael (T) | 6-1 | 296 | 2 | Rutgers | 7/0/0/1 | FA 23 | CFA NYJ 21 | Dwumfour is in a crowded camp battle to earn a rotational role at defensive tackle. |
| **96** | **Elliott, Jordan (T)** | **6-4** | **303** | **4** | **Missouri** | **17/17** | **D3 20** | **D3 CLV 20** | **Someone will have to come on strong to knock Elliott out of a starting job inside.** |
| **95** | **Garrett, Myles (E)** | **6-4** | **272** | **7** | **Texas A&M** | **16/15/0/1** | **D1 17** | **D1 CLV 17** | **Garrett is a sack master who doesn't always get enough credit for his run defense.** |
| 98 | *Hill, Trysten (T) | 6-3 | 310 | 5 | Central Florida | 13/0/0/2 | UFA,ARIZ 23 | D2 DALL 19 | The Browns signed Hill to give them the depth they lacked on the D-line last season. |
| 90 | *Hurst II, Maurice (T) | 6-2 | 290 | 6 | Michigan | 0/0/0/0 | UFA,SF 23 | D5 OAK 18 | Hurst is looking to revive his career after playing two games with the 49ers in 2022. |
| 62 | Ika, Siaki (T) | 6-3 | 335 | R | Baylor | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 CLV 23 | Ika considers himself a run stopper, but he can penetrate to get to the quarterback. |
| 91 | McGuire, Isaiah (E) | 6-4 | 268 | R | Missouri | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 CLV 23 | The Browns feel like they struck gold when they took McGuire in the fourth round. |
| **54** | **Okoronkwo, Ogbo (E)** | **6-2** | **250** | **6** | **Oklahoma** | **17/8** | **UFA,HOUS 23** | **D5 LAR 18** | **The flexible edge rusher is eager to build on a breakout 2022 season in Houston.** |
| 57 | Stille, Ben (T) | 6-4 | 300 | 2 | Nebraska | 7/1/0/2 | FA 22 | CFA MIA 22 | Stille is young and ready to prove he deserves a chance to be a part of the defense. |
| 58 | Thomas, Isaiah (E) | 6-5 | 266 | 2 | Oklahoma | 10/0/1/6 | D7 22 | D7 CLV 22 | A hand injury hampered Thomas last year. He has quickness to beat offensive tackles. |
| 93 | Togiai, Tommy (T) | 6-2 | 296 | 3 | Ohio State | 12/2/0/5 | D4 21 | D4 CLV 21 | Togiai will have to play better than last year to stick to the final roster this time. |
| **94** | **Tomlinson, Dalvin (T)** | **6-3** | **325** | **7** | **Alabama** | **13/13/0/4** | **UFA,MINN 23** | **D2 NYG 17** | **The Browns are counting on Tomlinson to swallow runners who dare to try to go inside.** |
| 97 | Winfrey, Perrion (T) | 6-4 | 290 | 2 | Oklahoma | 13/0/0/4 | D4 22 | D4 CLV 22 | Winfrey has to overcome immaturity issues to prove he deserves to be on the team. |
| 99 | Wright, Alex (E) | 6-5 | 267 | 2 | Alabama-Birmingham | 17/5 | D3 22 | D3 CLV 22 | Wright is valuable in a backup role because he can make an impact from either end. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 40 | Adams, Matthew (O) | 6-0 | 230 | 6 | Houston | 10/3/0/2 | UFA,CHI 23 | D7 IND 18 | Adams is looking for his first career sack as he enters his sixth year in the NFL. |
| 42 | Fields II, Tony (O) | 6-0 | 222 | 3 | West Virginia | 17/6 | D5 21 | D5 CLV 21 | The arrow is definitely pointing upward for Fields after making 48 tackles in 2022. |
| 51 | *Kunaszyk, Jordan (O) | 6-3 | 235 | 5 | California | 15/2/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA CARO 19 | Kunaszyk played in all but two games last year. The Browns know he is dependable. |
| **28** | ***Owusu-Koramoah, Jeremiah (O)** | **6-2** | **221** | **3** | **Notre Dame** | **11/10/0/2** | **D2 21** | **D2 CLV 21** | **JOK hit the offseason weight room so he can take on tight ends better this year.** |
| 50 | *Phillips, Jacob (M) | 6-3 | 228 | 4 | Louisiana State | 7/4/0/0 | D3 20 | D3 CLV 20 | Phillips is back from a pec injury and ready to challenge Walker for a starting job. |
| **44** | ***Takitaki, Sione (O)** | **6-1** | **238** | **5** | **Brigham Young** | **12/8/0/0** | **D3 19** | **D3 CLV 19** | **Injuries to linebackers last season showed Takitaki can flourish outside or inside.** |
| **5** | ***Walker Jr., Anthony (M)** | **6-1** | **235** | **6** | **Northwestern** | **3/3/0/0** | **UFA,IND 21** | **D5 IND 17** | **Walker is like the grandfather and undisputed leader of the linebacking corps.** |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 37 | Bell, D'Anthony (S) | 6-1 | 211 | 2 | West Florida | 16/2/0/1 | CFA 22 | CFA CLV 22 | Bell made the roster as an UDFA in 2022 and is hoping for a bigger role in Year 2. |
| **22** | **Delpit, Grant (S)** | **6-3** | **208** | **3** | **Louisiana State** | **17/16** | **D2 20** | **D2 CLV 20** | **Delpit is one of the surest tacklers on the team and has a good sense for the ball.** |
| 23 | Emerson Jr., Martin (CB) | 6-2 | 201 | 2 | Mississippi State | 17/6 | D3 22 | D3 CLV 22 | It did not take long for Emerson to show he can guard the opponent's top receivers. |
| 27 | Ford Jr., Mike (CB) | 6-0 | 195 | 6 | Southeast Missouri | 17/2 | UFA,ATL 23 | CFA DET 18 | Ford, in his sixth NFL season, will get the chance to show he can play nickel downs. |
| 31 | Graham Jr., Thomas (CB) | 5-11 | 197 | 2 | Oregon | 7/0/1/6 | FA 22 | D6 CHI 21 | The Browns know that Graham will give his all on special teams every chance he gets. |
| 38 | Green III, A.J. (CB) | 6-2 | 198 | 3 | Oklahoma State | 17/1 | FA 21 | CFA CLV 20 | Green has developed into a cornerback who can play dime or sub in case of injury. |
| | McLeod, Rodney (S) | 5-10 | 195 | 11 | Virginia | 17/15 | FA 23 | CFA STL 12 | The Browns got a hard-hitting veteran safety when they signed McLeod after the draft. |
| 29 | Mitchell, Cameron (CB) | 5-11 | 191 | R | Northwestern | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 CLV 23 | The Browns went back to the Northwestern well after taking Greg Newsome in 2021. |
| **20** | **Newsome II, Greg (CB)** | **6-0** | **192** | **3** | **Northwestern** | **15/15/0/2** | **D1 21** | **D1 CLV 21** | **Newsome is happy to play nickel back in the scheme new DC Jim Schwartz has planned.** |
| **1** | **Thornhill, Juan (S)** | **6-0** | **205** | **5** | **Virginia** | **16/16/0/1** | **UFA,KC 23** | **D2 KC 19** | **Two Super Bowl rings shows Thornhill knows how to play well on the biggest stages.** |
| **21** | **Ward, Denzel (CB)** | **5-11** | **190** | **6** | **Ohio State** | **14/14/0/3** | **D1 18** | **D1 CLV 18** | **Ward has a calm demeanor, but he will always be tenacious in man-to-man coverage.** |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Bojorquez, Corey (P) | 6-0 | 217 | 6 | New Mexico | 17/0 | UFA,GB 22 | CFA NE 18 | Bojorquez places the ball with precision when he is asked to do directional punting. |
| 47 | Hughlett, Charley (LS) | 6-4 | 248 | 9 | Central Florida | 17/0 | FA 14 | CFA DALL 12 | Whether he is punting or holding, Bojorquez knows Hughlett's snap will be perfect. |
| 3 | York, Cade (K) | 6-1 | 206 | 2 | Louisiana State | 17/0 | D4 22 | D4 CLV 22 | A second season in the NFL should be enough for York to get his kicking on track. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; SD=Supplemental Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent; VA=Veteran Allocation.

Other free agents in camp (I indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Daylen Baldwin (I, Michigan), Mike Harley Jr. (I, Miami), Marquez Stevenson (2, Houston); TE Zaire Mitchell-Paden (I, Florida Atlantic); T Roderick Perry II (I, Illinois); T/G Tyrone Wheatley Jr. (I, Morgan State); RBs John Kelly Jr. (2, Tennessee), Nate McCrary (I, Saginaw Valley State); DE Sam Kamara (2, Stony Brook); LB Storey Jackson (I, Liberty); S Bubba Bolden (I, Virginia); P Joseph Charlton (3, South Carolina)

quarterback because Watson holds the ball longer and is fluid enough to run from the pocket to extend plays. Conklin is a critical part of the Browns' plans. He has battled injuries the last two seasons, but the Browns signed him to a four-year extension. James Hudson can back up both tackles.

**RATING: 8**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Browns vastly overrated holdover defensive tackles from the 2021 team when they were making plans for last season. Teams gashed their run defense all season. As a result, they made the change at defensive coordinator and made Tomlinson their first free-agency signing. Tomlinson, 325 pounds, made 42 tackles in 13 games with the Vikings last season. He had 2.5 sacks and 10 quarterback hits. Maurice Hurst and Trysten Hill were added as rotational defensive tackles. The Browns drafted 335-pound Siaki Ika to play inside.

Myles Garrett has had back-to-back 16 sack seasons. He should benefit from Schwartz's attacking style defense. Okoronkwo is an under-the-radar addition at end. He had five sacks in his final six games with the Texans last season.

**RATING: 7**

## LINEBACKERS

Linebacking once again is the weak link to the defense. Berry does not emphasize the position. His biggest moves in the offseason were re-signing injured Sione Takitaki (ACL) and Anthony Walker (torn quadriceps tendon).

Outside linebacker Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah missed two games with a knee injury in October and then finished the season on injured reserve with a foot injury. He is quick, but at 221 pounds he sometimes gets washed out of plays. His foot healed with rest. The same could not be said for inside linebacker Jacob Phillips, who suffered a torn pectoral muscle in October. The Browns did not select a linebacker in the 2023 draft. Counting on Walker, Takitaki, Phillps and Owusu-Koramoah to all bounce back at 100 percent is wishful thinking.

**RATING: 6**

## SECONDARY

Only four teams gave up fewer touchdown passes than the 20 allowed by the Browns last season. Rookie third-round cornerback Martin Emerson was a major part of that success. Martin, along with Denzel Ward and Greg Newsome II, give the Browns one of the best corner trios in the AFC.

Free safety John Johnson III was released with one year left on his contract. Juan Thornhill, part of two Super Bowl championships with the Chiefs, was signed to replace him. Injuries plagued safety Grant Delpit the first two years of his career, but he was finally healthy in 2022 and was able to show why the Browns used a second-round pick on him in 2020. He made 105 tackles and led the team with four interceptions. Delpit and Thornhill solidify the back end of the defense, while Rodney McLeod was added for depth.

**RATING: 8**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Cade York is fortunate the Browns invested a fourth-round draft pick on him last year because otherwise they might be using training camp to find another kicker. York made only 24 of 32 field-goal attempts. His inconsistency played into Priefer being fired.

Long snapper Charley Hughlett is back for his ninth season and punter/holder Corey Bojorquez is back for his second season. Bojorquez and York will work diligently to make sure they perfect the holding routine.

Return specialist Jakeem Grant missed all of 2022 after rupturing his Achilles in training camp. His injury opened the door for Ford to return kicks. Grant is healthy and will return punts. He and Ford are options on kickoff returns.

**RATING: 8**

## INTANGIBLES

There is excitement at Browns headquarters knowing Watson will be part of the team for the full season. Schwartz has the defensive players energized. The Browns have enough veteran players to lead them to the playoffs. Fans are starving for a winner.

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Jeff Schudel

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. The Browns did not re-sign running back Kareem Hunt and D'Ernest Johnson signed with Jacksonville. Jerome Ford must prove he can shoulder the load of being Nick Chubb's primary backup in his second season.

2. Linebacker Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah is quick, but also light at 221 pounds. That led to him being muscled out of the play at times last year. He has to play bigger than his size to dominate.

3. Cade York struggled as a rookie last season, connecting on only 24 of 32 field-goal tries. The Browns aren't giving up on him, but one more shaky season could send them hunting for a replacement.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 7-10**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | at Carolina | 26-24 |
| Sept. 18 | N.Y. JETS | 30-31 |
| Sept. 22 | PITTSBURGH | 29-17 |
| Oct. 2 | at Atlanta | 20-23 |
| Oct. 9 | L.A. CHARGERS | 28-30 |
| Oct. 16 | NEW ENGLAND | 15-38 |
| Oct. 23 | at Baltimore | 20-23 |
| Oct. 31 | CINCINNATI | 32-13 |
| Nov. 13 | at Miami | 17-39 |
| Nov. 20 | at Buffalo | 23-31 |
| Nov. 27 | TAMPA BAY (OT) | 23-17 |
| Dec. 4 | at Houston | 27-14 |
| Dec. 11 | at Cincinnati | 10-23 |
| Dec. 17 | BALTIMORE | 13-3 |
| Dec. 24 | NEW ORLEANS | 10-17 |
| Jan. 1 | at Washington | 24-10 |
| Jan. 8 | at Pittsburgh | 14-28 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Eastern**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 3 | N.Y. Jets, Canton | 8:00 |
| Aug. 10-14 | WASHINGTON | TBD |
| Aug. 17 | at Philadelphia (Thu) | 7:30 |
| Aug. 24-27 | at Kansas City | TBD |
| Sept. 10 | CINCINNATI | 1:00 |
| Sept. 18 | at Pittsburgh (Mon) | 8:15 |
| Sept. 24 | TENNESSEE | 1:00 |
| Oct. 1 | BALTIMORE | 1:00 |
| | BYE | |
| Oct. 15 | SAN FRANCISCO | 1:00 |
| Oct. 22 | at Indianapolis | 1:00 |
| Oct. 29 | at Seattle | 4:05 |
| Nov. 5 | ARIZONA | 1:00 |
| Nov. 12 | at Baltimore | 1:00 |
| Nov. 19 | PITTSBURGH | 1:00 |
| Nov. 26 | at Denver | 4:05 |
| Dec. 3 | at L.A. Rams | 4:25 |
| Dec. 10 | JACKSONVILLE | 1:00 |
| Dec. 16/17 | CHICAGO | TBD |
| Dec. 24 | at Houston | 1:00 |
| Dec. 28 | N.Y. JETS (Thu) | 8:15 |
| TBD | at Cincinnati | TBD |

# PITTSBURGH STEELERS

## Playoff Wins Elusive for Steelers

The Steelers missed the playoffs in their first season in nearly two decades without Ben Roethlisberger at quarterback. A challenging season while Kenny Pickett acclimated to the NFL was not unexpected, and they now turn their attention to building a playoff team while their next franchise quarterback is on his rookie contract.

Pickett enters his second season with much bigger expectations. He commanded the team well down the stretch and had the Steelers in playoff contention until the final weekend of the season. Getting to the postseason in an ultra-competitive AFC will continue to rest with a ball-control offense and an opportunistic defense that ranked among the NFL's top 10 in points allowed last season.

General manager Omar Khan was busy before the draft signing 11 outside free agents. He added four potential starters on his defense, including defensive backs Patrick Peterson and Keanu Neal and inside linebackers Cole Holcomb and Elandon Roberts. Khan also signed starting offensive lineman Isaac Seumalo.

Khan added several young players in the draft that are capable of making an impact in 2023, including left tackle Broderick Jones, cornerback Joey Porter Jr. and defensive lineman Keeanu Benton — all top-50 picks.

Now it's up to head coach Mike Tomlin to mold the roster into a winner. Tomlin has never had a losing season since becoming head coach in 2007, but with an aging defensive core the pressure is on Tomlin this season to deliver the team's first playoff victory since 2017.

**T.J. Watt**
Photo by Joe Robbins

**4**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 9-8

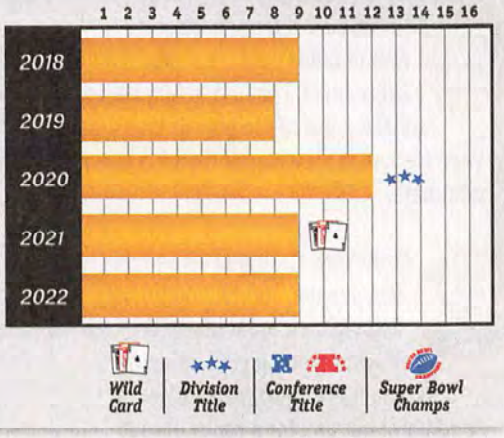
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 3-3

**STADIUM:** Heinz Field

**CAPACITY:** 68,400

**SURFACE:** Natural Grass

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

**3400 SOUTH WATER STREET**
**PITTSBURGH, PA 15203**
**(412) 432-7800**
**WWW.STEELERS.COM**

**TRAINING CAMP:** Saint Vincent College; Latrobe, PA
**HEAD COACH:** Mike Tomlin
- 17th season as Steelers/NFL head coach
- 171-102-2 overall; 8-9 postseason

**PRESIDENT:** Arthur J. Rooney II
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Arthur J. Rooney Jr.
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Omar Khan
**VP PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Dan Rooney Jr.
**ASSISTANT GM:** Andy Weidl
**DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:** Sheldon White
**DIR. PLAYER SCOUTING:** Mark Sadowski
**DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Dan Colbert

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Matt Canada | Offensive coordinator | 4 | 4 |
| Mike Sullivan | Quarterbacks | 19 | 3 |
| David Corley | Assistant quarterbacks | 3 | 2 |
| Pat Meyer | Offensive line | 11 | 2 |
| Isaac Williams | Assistant line | 2 | 2 |
| Eddie Faulkner | Running backs | 5 | 5 |
| Frisman Jackson | Receivers | 5 | 2 |
| Alfredo Roberts | Tight ends | 20 | 3 |
| Glenn Thomas | Offensive assistant | 8 | 1 |
| Teryl Austin | Defensive coordinator | 20 | 5 |
| Karl Dunbar | Defensive line | 17 | 6 |
| Aaron Curry | Inside linebackers | 4 | 1 |
| Denzel Martin | Outside linebackers | 8 | 8 |
| Grady Brown | Defensive backs | 3 | 3 |
| Danny Smith | Special teams coord. | 29 | 11 |
| Jason Brooks | Defensive qual. control | 8 | 1 |
| Matt Tomsho | Quality control | 3 | 3 |
| Garrett Giemont | Sr. conditioning coord. | 51 | 17 |
| Marcel Pastoor | Head S&C | 25 | 23 |
| Rodain Delus | S&C assistant | 7 | 6 |

## STEELERS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/20 | Kenny Pickett | QB | Starter |
| 2021 | 1/24 | Najee Harris | RB | Starter |
| 2020 | 2/49 | Chase Claypool | WR | Bears |
| 2019 | 1/10 | Devin Bush | LB | Starter |
| 2018 | 1/28 | Terrell Edmunds | S | Eagles |

## COACHING

Mike Tomlin has coached the Steelers longer than anyone else except for Pro Football Hall of Famer Chuck Noll. Entering his 17th season, Tomlin has a 163-93-2 record, and he's looking to lead the Steelers back to the playoffs after they were eliminated from contention on the final weekend of the season.

The Steelers have not won a playoff game since January of 2017, the longest playoff victory drought for the franchise since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger. Tomlin led the Steelers to a Super Bowl win in his second season on the job and coached the Steelers to a second Super Bowl appearance in his fourth year, but he is 3-7 in his past 10 postseason games. The Steelers have missed the playoffs in three of the past five years.

Tomlin did not make any major changes to his staff during the offseason, keeping his coordinators in place. He did make a few minor changes. Aaron Curry was brought in to coach the inside linebackers after Tomlin decided not to retain longtime assistant Jerry Olsavsky. Denzel Martin was promoted to outside linebackers coach after serving as a defensive assistant for several years.

**RATING: 8**

## QUARTERBACKS

Pickett started 12 games as a rookie and enters his second season with higher expectations after an encouraging finish to his rookie season. Twice in the final month of the season, Pickett led the Steelers to comeback victories in the final minute against the Raiders and Ravens. Those wins kept the Steelers in playoff contention. After losing four of his first six starts, Pickett led the Steelers to a 5-2 record over the final seven games. Veteran Mitchell Trubisky, who began last season as the starter, is one of the highest-paid backups in the league with a $10.6 million cap hit.

**RATING: 7**

## RUNNING BACKS

After he led the NFL in touches as a rookie in 2021, the Steelers limited Najee Harris' workload last season. After a foot injury slowed him early in the season, Harris rushed for 86 yards or more five times in the final nine games of the season and finished with 1,038 yards for a second consecutive season over 1,000 yards. The Steelers felt comfortable taking some carries away from Harris because of the emergence of undrafted rookie free agent Jaylen Warren, who impressed with a 4.9 yards-per-carry aver-

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

The Steelers offense has undergone a complete facelift over the past few offseasons, as the roster was rebuilt and reloaded on the fly. With QB **Kenny Pickett** showing great promise as a rookie, Pittsburgh has injected some excellent youth into the mix for him to target. Lightning-quick slot WR **Calvin Austin III** generated much-deserved hype during training camp last year, but his season was derailed when he suffered a season-ending foot injury. His 4.3-speed is expected to be on full display in 2023 and could be featured in some pre-snap movement schemes, or screens. Now, he must show he can stay healthy. ... No one will question the durability of TE **Pat Freiermuth**, who has played in 16 games during each of his first two seasons. There is no doubt that Freiermuth has developed into one of the premier young tight ends in the NFL. If he can take the next step and put it all together on a weekly basis, he has the potential to become an All-Pro. ... One player the team has yet to crack the code on is DL **DeMarvin Leal**, who played defensive tackle, end and outside linebacker. Finding a definitive role such as a 3-4 situational pass-rusher could tap into some of his alluring potential.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

**MATT CANADA**

Canada is entering his third season as offensive coordinator, and it could be his last if the Steelers don't score more this season. The Steelers averaged only 18.1 points per game last season, tied for 26th in the league in scoring. They ranked 23rd in total offense and 24th in passing offense. The Steelers believe they have their quarterback in Pickett and some young weapons around him, but Canada has to put them in better positions to get the most out of their talents.

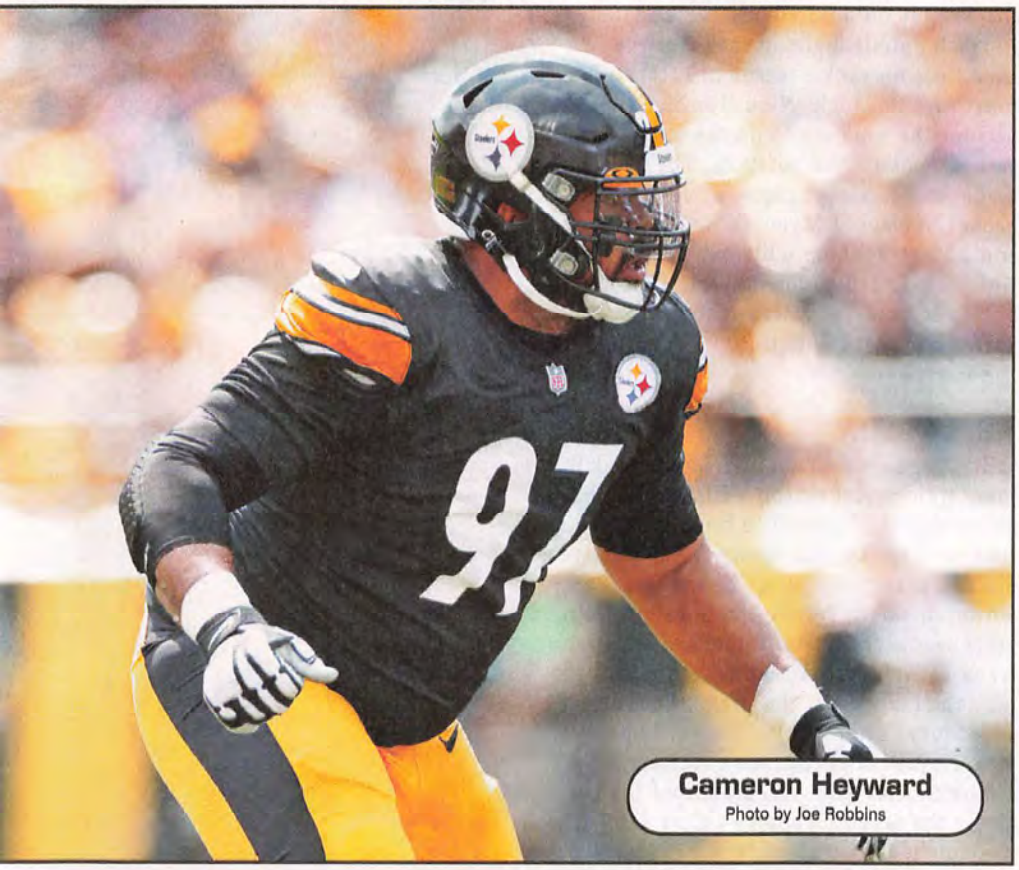
# STEELERS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | *Austin III, Calvin | 5-9 | 162 | 2 | Memphis | 0/0/0/0 | D4 22 | D4 PITT 22 | Spent his rookie season on injured reserve with a foot injury. |
| 13 | Boykin, Miles | 6-4 | 220 | 5 | Notre Dame | 16/1/0/1 | W,BLT 22 | D3 BLT 19 | One of the top special-teams players in the AFC North. |
| 88 | Freiermuth, Pat (TE) | 6-5 | 258 | 3 | Penn State | 16/8/0/1 | D2 21 | D2 PITT 21 | Set career highs with 63 catches and 732 yards. |
| 81 | Gentry, Zach (TE) | 6-8 | 265 | 4 | Michigan | 17/13 | D5 19 | D5 PITT 19 | Strong run blocker signed a one-year deal to return as No. 2 tight end. |
| 83 | Heyward, Connor (FB/TE) | 6-0 | 230 | 2 | Michigan State | 17/0 | D6 22 | D6 PITT 22 | Versatile H-back had 12 receptions and one touchdown as a rookie. |
| 18 | Johnson, Diontae (RS) | 5-10 | 183 | 5 | Toledo | 17/17 | D3 19 | D3 PITT 19 | Has averaged 85 receptions a season since entering the league in 2019. |
| 17 | *Miller, Anthony | 5-11 | 199 | 5 | Memphis | 0/0/0/0 | FA 22 | D2 CHI 18 | Former second-round pick of the Bears spent last season on injured reserve. |
| 89 | Olszewski, Gunner (RS) | 6-0 | 190 | 5 | Bemidji State | 16/2/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA NE 19 | Played a career-high 216 offensive snaps, doubling his previous high. |
| 14 | Pickens, George | 6-3 | 200 | 2 | Georgia | 17/12 | D2 22 | D2 PITT 22 | Emerging as the top receiving threat after flashing big-play ability as a rookie. |
| 11 | *Robinson II, Allen | 6-2 | 220 | 10 | Penn State | 10/1/0/1 | T,LAR 23 | D2 JAX 14 | Slotted in as No. 3 receiver after being acquired in a trade with the Rams. |
| 80 | Washington, Darnell (TE) | 6-7 | 264 | R | Georgia | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 PITT 23 | Third-round pick caught two touchdowns for Georgia last season. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 74 | Anderson, Spencer (G) | 6-5 | 305 | R | Maryland | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 PITT 23 | Started games at all five line positions at Maryland. |
| 67 | Clark, Le'Raven (T) | 6-5 | 311 | 6 | Texas Tech | 13/2/0/1 | UFA,TENN 23 | D3 IND 16 | Signed in free agency to provide depth at tackle. |
| 61 | Cole, Mason (C) | 6-5 | 298 | 6 | Michigan | 17/17 | UFA,MINN 22 | D3 ARIZ 18 | Started 17 games at center in his first season with the Steelers. |
| 78 | Daniels, James (RG) | 6-4 | 327 | 6 | Iowa | 17/17 | UFA,CHI 22 | D2 CHI 18 | Settled in at right guard and provided veteran presence on a young line. |
| 69 | Dotson, Kevin (G) | 6-4 | 321 | 4 | Louisiana-Lafayette | 17/17 | D4 20 | D4 PITT 20 | Strong run-blocker, but he was among the league's most-penalized lineman. |
| 53 | Green, Kendrick (C) | 6-4 | 315 | 3 | Illinois | 0/0/0/17 | D3 21 | D3 PITT 21 | Did not dress for a game after starting 15 games at center as a rookie in 2021. |
| 71 | *Herbig, Nate (C) | 6-4 | 334 | 5 | Stanford | 11/11/4/1 | UFA,NYJ 23 | CFA PHA 19 | Free-agent addition made 28 starts for Eagles and Jets the past three seasons. |
| 77 | Jones, Broderick (T) | 6-5 | 311 | R | Georgia | 0/0 | D1 23 | D1 PITT 23 | No. 14 overall pick should challenge for the starting left-tackle job. |
| 65 | Moore Jr., Dan (LT) | 6-5 | 315 | 3 | Texas A&M | 17/17 | D4 21 | D4 PITT 21 | 33-game starter at left tackle has to improve in pass protection. |
| 76 | Okorafor, Chukwuma (RT) | 6-6 | 320 | 6 | Western Michigan | 17/17 | D3 18 | D3 PITT 18 | Has started 48 games at right tackle over the past three seasons. |
| 73 | Seumalo, Isaac (LG) | 6-4 | 303 | 8 | Oregon State | 17/17 | UFA,PHA 23 | D3 PHA 16 | Expected to start at left guard after signing three-year deal in free agency. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | Harris, Najee | 6-1 | 242 | 3 | Alabama | 17/17 | D1 21 | D1 PITT 21 | Has 2,930 scrimmage yards and 20 touchdowns in his first two seasons. |
| 26 | McFarland Jr., Anthony | 5-8 | 193 | 3 | Maryland | 1/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D4 PITT 20 | Has spent most of the past two seasons on the practice squad. |
| 30 | Warren, Jaylen | 5-8 | 215 | 2 | Oklahoma State | 16/0/0/1 | CFA 22 | CFA PITT 22 | Undrafted rookie earned backup job behind Harris and had 379 rushing yards. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Pickett, Kenny | 6-3 | 220 | 2 | Pittsburgh | 13/12/3/1 | D1 22 | D1 PITT 22 | Threw seven touchdown passes in 13 starts as a rookie. |
| 10 | Trubisky, Mitchell | 6-2 | 220 | 7 | North Carolina | 7/5/10/0 | UFA,BUFF 22 | D1 CHI 17 | Veteran backup enters the final year of his contract. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 57 | Adams Sr, Montravius (NT) | 6-4 | 304 | 6 | Auburn | 17/9 | FA 21 | D3 GB 18 | Posted 26 tackles in nine starts. |
| 95 | Benton, Keeanu (T) | 6-4 | 309 | R | Wisconsin | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 PITT 23 | Second-round pick will challenge for starting nose-tackle duties. |
| 96 | Fehoko, Breiden (NT) | 6-3 | 300 | 3 | Louisiana State | 9/3/0/1 | FA 23 | CFA LAC 20 | Added in free agency to compete for nose-tackle job. |
| 97 | Heyward, Cameron (E) | 6-5 | 295 | 13 | Ohio State | 17/17 | D1 11 | D1 PITT 11 | Veteran captain has registered double-digit sack seasons two years in a row. |
| 98 | Leal, DeMarvin (E) | 6-4 | 290 | 2 | Texas A&M | 11/2/0/0 | D3 22 | D3 PITT 22 | Versatile defender who can play on the interior and the edge. |
| 92 | Loudermilk, Isaiahh (T) | 6-7 | 293 | 3 | Wisconsin | 11/3/0/6 | D5 21 | D5 PITT 21 | Has made five starts in his first two seasons. |
| 91 | Marshall, Jonathan (E) | 6-3 | 310 | 2 | Arkansas | 0/0/0/4 | FA 22 | D6 NYJ 21 | Dressed for four games with the Jets in 2021. |
| 65 | Ogunjobi, Larry (T) | 6-3 | 305 | 7 | Charlotte | 16/16/0/1 | FA 22 | D3 CLV 17 | Looking to rush the passer more effectively after posting 1.5 sacks last season. |
| 68 | Watts, Armon (T) | 6-5 | 307 | 4 | Arkansas | 17/13 | UFA,CHI 23 | D6 MINN 19 | Free-agent addition brings depth to the interior. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 54 | Crowder, Tae (I) | 6-1 | 235 | 4 | Georgia | 13/8/0/3 | FA 22 | D7 NYG 20 | Started eight games for the Giants last season. |
| 51 | Herbig, Nick (O) | 6-2 | 240 | R | Wisconsin | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 PITT 23 | Fourth-round pick will challenge for a spot in the rotation. |
| 56 | Highsmith, Alex (O) | 6-4 | 242 | 4 | North Carolina-Charlotte | 17/17 | D3 20 | D3 PITT 20 | In line for a second contract after posting 14.5 sacks in his third season. |
| 55 | *Holcomb, Cole (I) | 6-1 | 240 | 5 | North Carolina | 7/7/0/4 | UFA,WSH 23 | D5 WSH 19 | Signed three-year deal in free agency to anchor middle of the defense. |
| 44 | Muse, Tanner (I) | 6-2 | 227 | 4 | Clemson | 17/1 | FA 23 | D3 LV 20 | Expected to be a strong contributor on special teams. |
| 50 | Roberts, Elandon (I) | 6-0 | 238 | 7 | Houston | 17/17 | UFA,MIA 23 | D6 NE 16 | Veteran run-stopper expected to start alongside Holcomb. |
| 93 | Robinson, Mark (I) | 5-11 | 235 | 2 | Mississippi | 4/2/1/12 | D7 22 | D7 PITT 22 | Earned late-season snaps at end of his rookie season. |
| 53 | Roche, Quincy (O) | 6-3 | 245 | 2 | Miami | 3/0/0/2 | FA 23 | D6 PITT 21 | Former Giant played in 17 games over the past two seasons. |
| 90 | Watt, T.J. (O) | 6-4 | 252 | 7 | Wisconsin | 10/10/0/0 | D1 17 | D1 PITT 17 | Looking to get back on track after pectoral injury slowed his sack production. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 33 | Dawson Jr., Duke (CB) | 5-10 | 198 | 5 | Florida | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D2 NE 18 | Hasn't played in a game since he was with the Broncos in 2020. |
| 39 | Fitzpatrick, Minkah (S) | 6-1 | 207 | 6 | Alabama | 15/15/0/2 | D1 18 | D1 MIA 18 | Five-time All-Pro is building a Hall of Fame resume. |
| 23 | Kazee, Damontae (S) | 5-11 | 174 | 6 | San Diego State | 9/4/0/0 | FA 22 | D5 ATL 17 | Has 14 interceptions in 53 career starts. |
| 28 | Killebrew, Miles (S) | 6-2 | 222 | 8 | Southern Utah | 17/0 | UFA,DET 21 | D4 DET 16 | One of the team's best special-teams players. |
| 35 | Maulet, Arthur (CB) | 5-10 | 190 | 6 | Memphis | 17/6 | FA 21 | CFA NORL 17 | Slot corner posted a career-high 59 tackles last season. |
| 31 | Neal, Keanu (S) | 6-0 | 211 | 8 | Florida | 17/8 | UFA,TB 23 | D1 ATL 16 | Veteran box safety has three 100-tackle seasons on his resume. |
| 21 | Norwood, Tre (S) | 6-0 | 194 | 3 | Oklahoma | 15/3/0/2 | D7 21 | D7 PITT 21 | Smart and versatile; he has started six games the past two seasons. |
| 20 | Peterson, Patrick (CB) | 6-1 | 203 | 11 | Louisiana State | 17/17 | UFA,MINN 23 | D1 ARIZ 11 | Three-time All-Pro was added for his veteran presence and playmaking ability. |
| 42 | Pierre, James (CB/RS) | 6-2 | 185 | 4 | Florida Atlantic | 17/2 | FA 23 | CFA PITT 20 | Has played in 50 games with six starts in his first three seasons. |
| 24 | Porter Jr., Joey (CB) | 6-2 | 193 | R | Penn State | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 PITT 23 | Will challenge for starting job after being taken with first pick in second round. |
| 37 | Riley, Elijah (S) | 6-0 | 205 | 3 | Army | 4/0/1/1 | FA 22 | CFA PHA 20 | Dressed for four games and contributed on special teams. |
| 34 | Sullivan, Chandon (CB) | 5-11 | 189 | 6 | Georgia State | 17/10 | FA 23 | CFA PHA 18 | Recorded four interceptions in 30 starts for Packers, Vikings in past three seasons. |
| 27 | Trice Jr., Cory (CB) | 6-3 | 206 | R | Purdue | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 PITT 23 | Long press corner will challenge for a role in the secondary. |
| 29 | Wallace, Levi (CB) | 6-0 | 179 | 6 | Alabama | 15/9/0/2 | UFA,BUFF 22 | CFA BUFF 18 | Veteran corner had a career-high four interceptions in 2022. |
| 25 | *Witherspoon, Ahkello (CB) | 6-2 | 195 | 7 | Colorado | 4/4/0/7 | T,SEA 21 | D3 SF 17 | A hamstring injury limited him to four games last season. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Boswell, Chris (K) | 6-2 | 185 | 9 | Rice | 12/0/0/1 | FA 15 | CFA HOUS 14 | Boasts 86.3 field-goal percentage after eight seasons in the league. |
| 6 | Harvin III, Pressley (P) | 6-0 | 255 | 3 | Georgia Tech | 17/0 | D7 21 | D7 PITT 21 | Has only eight touchbacks in 139 career punts. |
| 46 | Kuntz, Christian (LS) | 6-1 | 228 | 3 | Duquesne | 17/0 | FA 21 | CFA NE 17 | Reliable long snapper enters his third season. |
| 4 | Mann, Braden (P) | 5-11 | 198 | 4 | Texas A&M | 17/0 | W,NYJ 23 | D6 NYJ 20 | Signed to challenge Harvin for the punter job. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Ja'Marcus Bradley (2, Louisiana Lafayette), Jordan Byrd (San Diego State), Dan Chisena (3, Penn State), Dez Fitzpatrick (2 Louisville), Cody White (2, Michigan State); TE Rodney Williams II (1, Tennessee-Martin); G William Dunkle (1, San Diego State); Cs Trevor Downing (Iowa State), Ryan McCollum (2, Texas A&M); RBs Master Teague III (1, Ohio State), Jason Huntley (2, New Mexico State); FB Monte Pottebaum (Iowa); QB Tanner Morgan (Minnesota); DE James Nyamwaya (Merrimack); DT Renell Wren (3, Arizona State); LBs Emeke Egbule (3, Houston), David Perales (Fresno State), Chapelle Russell (3, Temple); CBs Madre Harper (2, Southern Illinois), Chris Wilcox (1, Brigham Young); Ss Scott Nelson (1, Wisconsin), Kenny Robinson (3, West Virginia); K B.T. Potter (Clemson)



Cameron Heyward
Photo by Joe Robbins

age as well as good receiving skills out of the backfield. Anthony McFarland, a fourth-round pick in 2020, will compete for a roster spot after spending most of last season on the practice squad.

**RATING: 7**

## RECEIVERS

The Steelers return their top three receivers from last season, but they'll be looking for more scoring production in 2023. Diontae Johnson led the Steelers with 86 receptions and 882 yards, but he did not reach the end zone. Tight end Pat Freiermuth had 63 catches, but only scored twice after notching seven touchdowns as a rookie. George Pickens led the Steelers with four touchdowns and could become the team's top receiver in 2023. Allen Robinson II arrived in April via a trade with the Rams and should slot in as the No. 3 receiver while Calvin Austin should be No. 4. Austin, who missed his rookie season with a foot injury, flashed big-play ability when he played in college at Memphis.

**RATING: 6.5**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Steelers continue to rebuild their offensive line. One year after spending $41 million on free agents, they used their first-round pick on left tackle Broderick Jones and signed left guard Isaac Seumalo to a three-

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

**KEY ADDITION:**
**CB Patrick Peterson**

Peterson was signed to take the place of Cam Sutton, but one of his most important jobs will be mentoring rookie Joey Porter Jr. Peterson is 33, but he had five interceptions for the Vikings last season.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**
T Le'Raven Clark, DT Breiden Fehoko, C/G Nate Herbig, LB Cole Holcomb, P Braden Mann, LB Tanner Muse, S Keanu Neal, LB Elandon Roberts, WR Allen Robinson II, G Isaac Seumalo, CB Chandon Sullivan, DT Armon Watts

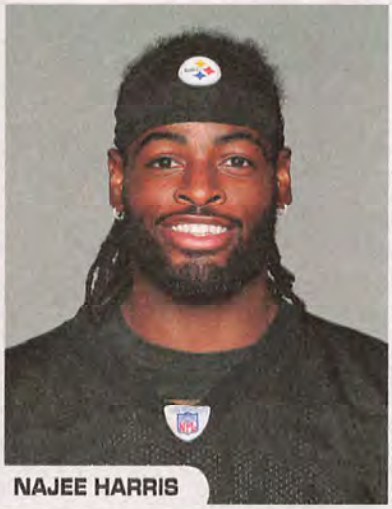
**KEY LOSS:**
**CB Cam Sutton (16/15)***
Sutton was a valuable member of the secondary because he could play outside corner and in the slot. His versatility allowed the Steelers great flexibility in how they game-planned.

**OTHER LOSSES:**
LB Marcus Allen (15/0), NT Tyson Alualu (17/2), **LB Devin Bush (17/14)**, T Jesse Davis (14/0), **S Terrell Edmunds (15/15)**, C J.C. Hassenauer (17/0), **LB Myles Jack (15/13)**, CB William Jackson III (4/4), LB Jamir Jones (17/0), S Karl Joseph (0/0), RB Jeremy McNichols (0/0), CB Carlins Platel (0/0), LB Malik Reed (14/2), QB Mason Rudolph (0/0), T Trent Scott (8/1), WR Steven Sims (12/4), RB Benny Snell (17/0), LB Robert Spillane (16/5), FB Derek Watt (17/3), DE Chris Wormley (13/1)*
**Total games played/started lost: 244/79**

**STARTERS RETURNING**
18: 11 offense, 7 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS



NAJEE HARRIS

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kenny Pickett | 389 | 245 | 2404 | 7 | 9 |
| Mitch Trubisky | 180 | 117 | 1252 | 4 | 5 |
| **Rushing** | **Att** | | **Yds** | **Avg** | **TD** |
| Najee Harris | 272 | | 1038 | 3.8 | 7 |
| Jaylen Warren | 77 | | 379 | 4.9 | 1 |
| Kenny Pickett | 55 | | 237 | 4.3 | 3 |
| **Receiving** | **Rec** | | **Yds** | **Avg** | **TD** |
| Diontae Johnson | 86 | | 882 | 10.3 | 0 |
| George Pickens | 52 | | 801 | 15.4 | 4 |
| Pat Freiermuth | 63 | | 732 | 11.6 | 2 |
| Chase Claypool | 32 | | 311 | 9.7 | 1 |

**Kicking:** Boswell 18/18 XPs, 20/28 FGs, 78 points
**Tackles:** Jack 104, Fitzpatrick 96, Bush 81
**Sacks:** Highsmith 14.5, Heyward 10.5, Watt 5.5
**INTs:** Fitzpatrick 6, Wallace 4, Sutton 3

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 322.8 | 23 |
| Passing Offense | 200.6 | 24 |
| Rushing Offense | 122.2 | 16 |
| Points | 18.1 | T-26 |
| Sacked | 38 | T-13 |
| 3rd Down % | 44.9 | 7 |
| **Defense** | | |
| Total Defense | 330.4 | 16 |
| Passing Defense | 222.3 | 19 |
| Rushing Defense | 108.1 | 9 |
| Points Allowed | 20.4 | T-10 |
| INTs | 20 | T-1 |
| Sacks | 40 | T-14 |
| Turnover Diff. | +4 | T-9 |

year, $24 million free-agent deal. The Steelers improved to a middle-of-the-pack running team in 2022, but they want to forge an identity that stresses physicality in the running game. The new additions also should help in pass protection. Jones, who did not allow a sack last season at Georgia, is expected to replace Dan Moore, who allowed more sacks than any other Steelers lineman last season.

**RATING: 6**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Cam Heyward is 34, but he is showing no signs of slowing down. He registered 10.5 sacks last season for his second straight double-digit sack season. Larry Ogunjobi, who signed a three-year deal during the offseason, defended against the run well in his first season with the Steelers. DeMarvin Leal can play anywhere on the line and should see increased playing time after showing promise as a rookie, while rookie second-round pick Keeanu Benton has a chance to beat out incumbent starter Montravius Adams.

**RATING: 7.5**

## LINEBACKERS

T.J. Watt and Alex Highsmith are two of the top edge rushers in the league. Highsmith is coming off a career year in which he posted 14.5 sacks. Watt spent half the season on injured reserve and failed to reach double digits in sacks for the first time since his rookie season in 2017. Rookie fourth-round pick Nick Herbig should become the top backup on the outside and earn a spot in the rotation. The Steelers made wholesale changes at inside linebacker, replacing Myles Jack, Devin Bush and Robert Spillane with free agents Cole Holcomb and Elandon Roberts. The only holdover from last year's roster is second-year player Mark Robinson.

**RATING: 8**

## SECONDARY

The Steelers tied for the league-lead in interceptions last season with 20, but that didn't stop the front office from letting two starters walk in free agency. The Steelers did not match the offers cornerback Cam Sutton or safety Terrell Edmunds got from other teams and instead opted to sign veterans Patrick Peterson and Keanu Neal to take their place. In the draft, the Steelers added Joey Porter Jr. with the No. 32 overall pick. He will challenge for a starting job as a rookie. They also added another big corner in the seventh round — Cory Trice Jr., who might end up at safety. All-Pro Minkah Fitzpatrick is the leader of the secondary and had a career-high six interceptions in 2022.

**RATING: 7**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Chris Boswell had an uncharacteristically bad season, going 20 for 28 on field-goal attempts. He had missed just seven field goals in the previous three seasons combined. Punter Pressley Harvin averaged 41.1 net yards per punt, but fewer than 30 percent of his punts landed inside the opponent's 20-yard line. Gunner Olszewski can handle kickoff and punt-return duties, but the Steelers are hoping Calvin Austin can unseat him. Christian Kuntz returns for his third season as long snapper.

**RATING: 6.5**

## INTANGIBLES

The Steelers were top 10 in the NFL in turnover margin last season at plus-4. This was after they had a disastrous first half of the season with giveaways when Pickett threw eight interceptions in his first five games. Over the final eight games of the season, Pickett threw only one interception as the Steelers discovered their winning formula. Play it conservative on offense and lean on a ball-hawking secondary that led the league with 20 interceptions. If the Steelers can play in the same efficient manner in 2023, they'll find themselves in the thick of the AFC playoff race.

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Ray Fittipaldo

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. The Steelers led the NFL in sacks from 2018-22, but they fell off to 14th last season with T.J. Watt on the shelf for half the season. Can Watt and the rest of the front seven rediscover their sack-master ways?

2. George Pickens had 801 receiving yards as a rookie and scored two of his four touchdowns in the final three games. Pickens could be among the NFL's breakout players in 2023 with his blend of size and playmaking ability.

3. The Steelers found success using three-safety packages last season and will continue to explore how they can find playing time for Damonte Kazee, who signed a two-year deal in March. After missing the first half of the season with an injury, Kazee produced two interceptions in nine games.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 9-8**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | at Cincinnati (OT) | 23-20 |
| Sept. 18 | NEW ENGLAND | 14-17 |
| Sept. 22 | at Cleveland | 17-29 |
| Oct. 2 | N.Y. JETS | 20-24 |
| Oct. 9 | at Buffalo | 3-38 |
| Oct. 16 | TAMPA BAY | 20-18 |
| Oct. 23 | at Miami | 10-16 |
| Oct. 30 | at Philadelphia | 13-35 |
| Nov. 13 | NEW ORLEANS | 20-10 |
| Nov. 20 | CINCINNATI | 30-37 |
| Nov. 28 | at Indianapolis | 24-17 |
| Dec. 4 | at Atlanta | 19-16 |
| Dec. 11 | BALTIMORE | 14-16 |
| Dec. 18 | at Carolina | 24-16 |
| Dec. 24 | LAS VEGAS | 13-10 |
| Jan. 1 | at Baltimore | 16-13 |
| Jan. 8 | CLEVELAND | 28-14 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Eastern**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 11 | at Tampa Bay (Fri) | TBD |
| Aug. 19 | BUFFALO (Sat) | 6:30 |
| Aug. 24-27 | at Atlanta | TBD |
| Sept. 10 | SAN FRANCISCO | 1:00 |
| Sept. 18 | CLEVELAND (Mon) | 8:15 |
| Sept. 24 | at Las Vegas | 8:20 |
| Oct. 1 | at Houston | 1:00 |
| Oct. 8 | BALTIMORE | 1:00 |
| | BYE | |
| Oct. 22 | at L.A. Rams | 4:05 |
| Oct. 29 | JACKSONVILLE | 1:00 |
| Nov. 2 | TENNESSEE (Thu) | 8:15 |
| Nov. 12 | GREEN BAY | 1:00 |
| Nov. 19 | at Cleveland | 1:00 |
| Nov. 26 | at Cincinnati | 1:00 |
| Dec. 3 | ARIZONA | 1:00 |
| Dec. 7 | NEW ENGLAND (Thu) | 8:15 |
| Dec. 16/17 | at Indianapolis | TBD |
| Dec. 23 | CINCINNATI (Sat) | 4:30 |
| Dec. 31 | at Seattle | 4:05 |
| TBD | at Baltimore | TBD |

# Young Quarterbacks Lead the Division

This is the division of young guns, where hopes rest with the big arms of quarterbacks all under the age of 25.

The dean is Jacksonville's Trevor Lawrence, who'll be 24 in his third NFL season.

Houston used the second overall draft choice on Ohio State's C.J. Stroud, 21.

Indianapolis used the fourth overall draft choice on Florida's Anthony Richardson, 21.

And Tennessee used the 33rd overall draft choice on Kentucky's Will Levis, 24.

This division hasn't produced a conference champion since the Colts in 2009. That's the longest drought of the four divisions, but the influx of fresh, young quarterbacks bodes well for the future.

## HOUSTON TEXANS

After three long years of dismantling a playoff team, trading its franchise quarterback, and burning through two one-and-done head coaches in a row, the Texans finally made strides in restoring faith in the organization.

Former 49ers defensive coordinator DeMeco Ryans was a popular choice to lead the charge back. Ryans declined other coaching offers to return to Houston, where he broke in at linebacker as a defensive Rookie of the Year and made two Pro Bowl teams in six years.

The Texans amped up the excitement by tabbing C.J. Stroud as their new franchise quarterback hopeful with the draft's second pick and then used resources from their 2022 trade of Deshaun Watson to move up and select a franchise pass rusher, Will Anderson Jr. of Alabama, with the third pick of the draft

## INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Since Andrew Luck retired during 2019 training camp, the Colts patched up their quarterback position with one veteran after another — Jacoby Brissett, Philip Rivers, Carson Wentz and Matt Ryan. Enough already, screamed owner Jim Irsay. So the Colts cashed in their chips with the fourth overall pick on Anthony Richardson of Florida. He's the first quarterback taken in the first round by the Colts since Luck in 2012.

With Gardner Minshew added as a seasoned backup, the Colts intend to hand the reins immediately to Richardson, who dazzled scouts and coaches at the NFL Combine with a display of athleticism and arm strength reminiscent of Cam Newton.

Richardson started only one season at Florida and completed only 53.8 percent of his passes. But the Colts believe that new head coach Shane Steichen, who developed Justin Herbert with the Chargers and Jalen Hurts with the Eagles, can maximize Richardson's freak-show athletic talents and develop him from Day 1.

## JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

The Jaguars couldn't have expected more from the first year of head coach Doug Pederson.

He deprogrammed quarterback Trevor Lawrence from one dysfunctional year under misplaced head coach Urban Meyer and turned around the 2021 first overall draft pick. Beyond that, Pederson injected a winning attitude in his new team. Pederson coaxed the Jaguars to a surprise title in a depressed division plus tacked on an epic comeback win over the Chargers in a wild-card playoff game before bowing out gracefully to the eventual Super Bowl champion Chiefs.

This is a team with enough young and talented players on defense to take the Jaguars to the next level as Lawrence grows under Pederson's guidance.

## TENNESSEE TITANS

The Ryan Tannehill era peaked with a No. 1 AFC playoff seed in 2021. Since that 12-5 record, they've lost a division playoff game and gone 7-10 the next year. Now they'll try to rebuild without hitting rock bottom.

By taking Kentucky quarterback Will Levis with the 33rd overall pick in the draft, new general manager Ran Carthon pretty much declared the Titans won't tank for the bountiful quarterback draft class in 2024.

It was an interesting move considering they'll let Tannehill play out the final year of his contract.

## STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

| | Overall | Div. | 8 Non Div. | 3 Non Div. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jacksonville | .477 | .294 | .496 | .800 |
| Tennessee | .448 | .333 | .496 | .549 |
| Indianapolis | .434 | .382 | .496 | .373 |
| Houston | .431 | .402 | .496 | .314 |

8 Non-Div. are games vs. two common divisions;
3 Non-Div. are games vs. teams with same place in standings.

## 5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

**1. Are the Jaguars legitimate players to make waves in the AFC?**

Yes. Winning their wild-card game was a huge step that convinced themselves they were not merely the best team of a bad division. Following up with a decent game against the Chiefs reinforced they are on the rise.

**2. Did the Texans pay too much for edge rusher Will Anderson Jr.?**

To move up to No. 3 and select Anderson, the Texans gave up No. 12 and No. 33, plus first- and third-round picks next year. Too much? Naw. Not when you consider the Texans had an extra first and fourth from Cleveland as final installments of the Deshaun Watson trade in 2022.

**3. Where exactly are the Titans heading?**

They could have justified waiting to get their next quarterback in the 2024 draft, which is projected to be loaded with better QBs than Will Levis.

**4. Did the Colts pick the right quarterback to lead their resurgence?**

In Anthony Richardson, they felt his athletic traits were too good to pass up. New head coach Shane Steichen had success developing Justin Herbert and Jalen Hurts. Steichen had to weigh in on this choice.

**5. Of Stroud, Richardson and Levis, who is most likely to have the best rookie season?**

Stroud and Richardson are virtually assured of playing right away; Levis isn't. Stroud had by far the most success in college, but Richardson has a better supporting cast. Let's put it this way: Richardson will make more highlight plays, but Stroud will have the better year.

—Tony Grossi

# HOUSTON TEXANS

## The 'Buzz' in Houston Now a Good One

Minutes after an introductory press conference for first-round draft picks C.J. Stroud and Will Anderson Jr., Texans owner Cal McNair emphasized how much he feels like the two rookies are precise fits in his vision for a rebuilding franchise.

Both Stroud, a strong-armed former Ohio State All-American quarterback, and Anderson, a relentless Alabama pass rusher ranked as the highest player on the Texans' draft board, were regarded as instrumental leaders in college. And both rookies are considered potential cornerstones for a team selling hope and the leadership and energy of new head coach DeMeco Ryans after three consecutive losing seasons.

"They're exactly the prototypical guys we want to bring in, so it's really exciting to have them. It's really fun to see," McNair said.

McNair and his wife, team vice president Hannah McNair, are optimistic about engineering a dramatic turnaround.

Hannah McNair smiled when asked about the past few years, which included Pro Bowl quarterback Deshaun Watson's trade and legal issues. The Texans went a combined 11-38-1 over the past three years.

"What negativity? I just don't recall," she said. "It's short memory, like a goldfish."

Turning serious, Hannah McNair captured the upbeat mood.

"The buzz is so incredible," Hannah McNair said. "The energy is great, can't wait to see the stadium full. I know it seems like it just turned a corner, but we have been working on this for quite some time. It's just nice to see it all come to fruition."

**Dameon Pierce**
Photo by Jamie Sabau-USA TODAY Sports

**2** PROJECTED FINISH

**2022 RECORD:** 3-13-1

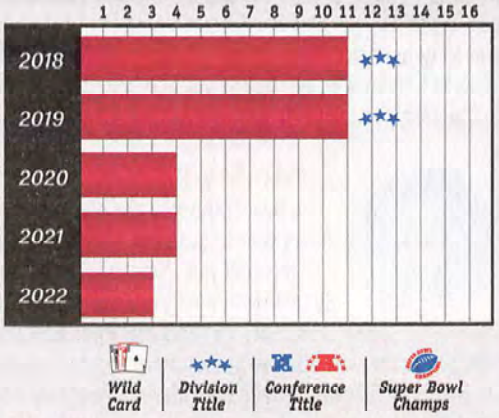
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 3-2-1

**STADIUM:** NRG Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 72,220

**SURFACE:** Artificial Turf

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

TWO NRG PARK
HOUSTON, TX 77054
PHONE: (832) 667-2000
WWW.HOUSTONTEXANS.COM

**TRAINING CAMP:** Houston Methodist Training Center, Houston, TX
**HEAD COACH:** DeMeco Ryans
• 1st season as Texans/NFL head coach
**CO-FOUNDER/SENIOR CHAIR:** Janice S. McNair
**CHAIR AND CEO:** D. Cal McNair
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Nick Caserio
**ASSISTANT. DIRECTOR. PLAYER PERSONNEL/COLLEGE SCOUTING DIRECTOR:** James Liipfert
**DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:** Ronnie McGill

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bobby Slowik | Offensive coordinator | 11 | 1 |
| Shane Day | Sr. offensive assistant | 15 | 1 |
| Bill Lazor | Sr. offensive assistant | 16 | 1 |
| Jerrod Johnson | Quarterbacks | 4 | 1 |
| Chris Strausser | Offensive line | 7 | 1 |
| Cole Popovich | Assistant line | 8 | 1 |
| Danny Barrett | Running backs | 8 | 6 |
| Ben McDaniels | *Receivers | 8 | 3 |
| Jake Moreland | Tight ends | 3 | 1 |
| DeNarius McGhee | Offensive assistant | 4 | 4 |
| Jarrod James | Offensive assistant | 2 | 2 |
| Matt Burke | Defensive coordinator | 20 | 1 |
| Cory Undlin | Def. pass game coord. | 20 | 1 |
| Jacques Cesaire | Defensive line | 4 | 2 |
| Rod Wright | Assistant line | 1 | 1 |
| Chris Kiffin | Linebackers | 7 | 1 |
| Dino Vasso | Cornerbacks | 11 | 3 |
| Stephen Adegoke | Safeties | 2 | 1 |
| Ben Bolling | Defensive assistant | 3 | 3 |
| Ryan Milus | Defensive assistant | 3 | 1 |
| Frank Ross | Special teams coord. | 11 | 3 |
| Sean Baker | Asst. special teams | 3 | 3 |
| Mike Eubanks | Head S&C | 15 | 6 |

*Offensive pass game coordinator

## TEXANS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/3 | Derek Stingley Jr. | CB | Starter |
| 2021 | 3/67 | Davis Mills | QB | Starter |
| 2020 | 2/40 | Ross Blacklock | DT | Vikings |
| 2019 | 1/23 | Tytus Howard | T | Starter |
| 2018 | 3/68 | Justin Reid | S | Chiefs |

## COACHING

When Ryans played for the Texans as the Defensive Rookie of the Year and a hard-hitting Pro Bowl linebacker, it was obvious that he was a coach on the field.

Now, the architect of the San Francisco 49ers' top-ranked defense and NFL Assistant Coach of the Year is running his former NFL team after a hiring cycle when he was in heavy demand around the league before signing a six-year contract with the Texans.

The Texans predict quick success from Ryans because of his knowledge of the game, ability to connect with players and a long runway from ownership that was determined to aim higher after one-and-done seasons for Lovie Smith and David Culley.

Drafted in the second round out of Alabama, Ryans quickly earned the defensive captain title and earned a nickname that stuck with him to this day: "Cap."

"You're talking about a guy who, as a 22-year-old, walked into an NFL building and led an entire defense as a captain and really the best player on the defense from Day 1," Dolphins head coach Mike McDaniel said. "Players play for him; players believe in him. He has the disposition to handle the natural turbulence as careers go from this scope."

**RATING: 7**

## QUARTERBACKS

Stroud doesn't lack for confidence, or understanding of the strengths of his game. And the former Heisman Trophy finalist's belief in himself, particularly his precise accuracy and ability to read defenses and see the field, were, ultimately, convincing selling points in his candidacy to be one of the first two quarterbacks selected in the draft.

Now, he's the Texans' first franchise quarterback since Watson and is expected to quickly ascend to QB1 status. The Texans have last year's starter, Davis Mills, on the roster along with veteran backup Case Keenum to hold down the position until Stroud is ready.

"Honestly, I don't believe in pressure," Stroud said. "I think you either do it or you don't. I don't care about the outside noise. I ain't going to be perfect. I'm going to make sure I work my tail off to do the right thing."

The way Stroud excelled during the final game of his college career against a talented Georgia defense resonated with the Texans' decision-makers. Stroud passed for 348 yards and four touchdowns in a playoff semifinal loss to the Bulldogs, excelling against first-round draft pick Jalen Carter.

"His toughness, his competitiveness, his leadership, his accuracy, those are all

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

Rookie RB **Dameon Pierce** ran into the dreaded rookie wall. He missed the final four games of the season due to injury. The final four games he did appear in, he managed just 167 rushing yards and only exceeded the 100-yard barrier twice. That said, Pierce yielded plenty of positive results in his first year. He ran with a ferocity that old Houston legend Earl Campbell would appreciate. In addition, he can provide a threat as a receiver out of the backfield. Getting his conditioning and body built right will be the key to his success, but Pierce owns the skill-set to be a perennial 1,000-yard rusher. ... We didn't quite see the evolution of WR **Nico Collins** in Year 2, but he is another Texans player who dealt with nagging injuries. The lengthy, acrobatic pass-catcher could become the new go-to target in Houston. ... His fellow counterpart, WR **John Metchie III** is one of the best stories of 2023, as he returns from Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia. ... On defense, CB **Derek Stingley** fell victim to the injury bug in what was an encouraging first year. The No. 3 overall pick settled in down the stretch and improved vastly by season's end. All signs indicate that he is on the verge of greatness.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

NICK CASERIO

The Texans general manager acknowledged the clock was ticking in the wake of firing Lovie Smith after the Texans went a combined 7-26-1 during his first two seasons running the personnel department. Since that moment, Caserio has made some bold, aggressive moves, emphasizing quality over quantity, by selecting quarterback C.J. Stroud and defensive end Will Anderson Jr.

He's making a big bet on the Alabama pass rusher, a calculated gamble as he traded the 12th pick, 33rd pick and the Texans' first-and third-round picks in 2024 to Arizona to acquire him. If Stroud and Anderson don't fulfill their potential and the Texans continue to lose, the scrutiny of Caserio will continue to increase and perhaps the patience of ownership will wane. He'll be defined largely by this draft.

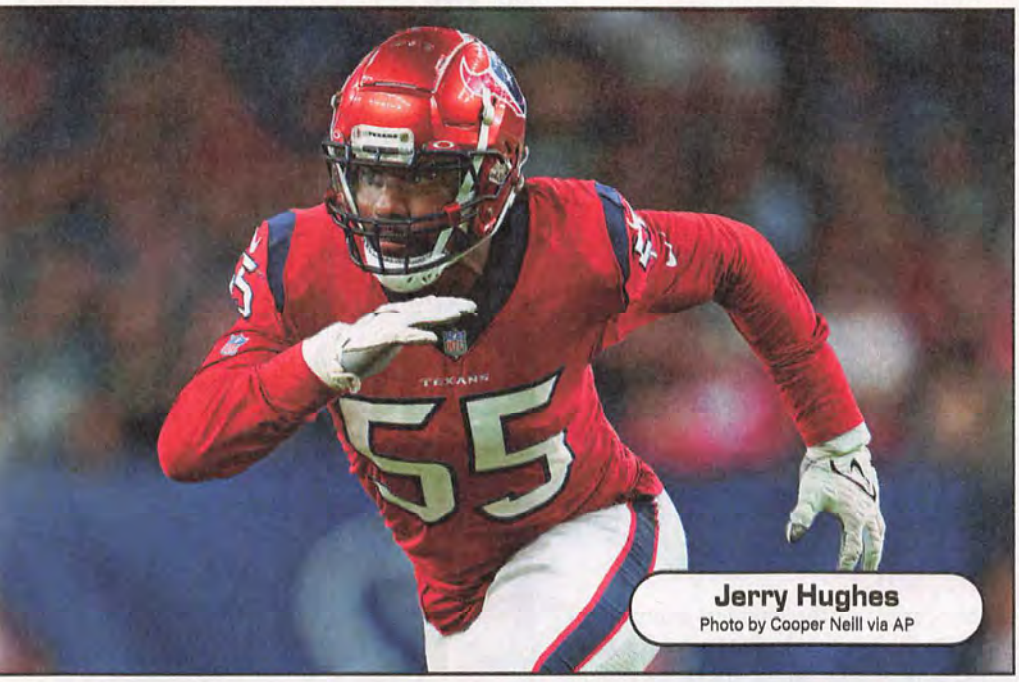
# TEXANS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 47 | Beck, Andrew (TE/FB) | 6-3 | 255 | 5 | Texas | 13/4/0/4 | UFA,DEN 23 | CFA NE 19 | Versatile combo player can catch; slated for blocking and special-teams role. |
| 85 | Brown, Noah | 6-2 | 215 | 7 | Ohio State | 16/13/0/1 | UFA,DALL 23 | D7 DALL 17 | Ex-Cowboys starter produces when targeted; big and physical. |
| 12 | *Collins, Nico | 6-4 | 215 | 3 | Michigan | 10/7/0/4 | D3 21 | D3 HOUS 21 | Imposing jump-ball and over-the-middle type can run, too. |
| 13 | Dell, Tank | 5-10 | 165 | R | Houston | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 HOUS 23 | Diminutive, explosive after catch, stellar return skills. |
| 19 | Hutchinson, Xavier | 6-3 | 205 | R | Iowa State | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 HOUS 23 | Rookie has ability to play inside or outside. |
| 9 | Jordan, Brevin (TE) | 6-3 | 245 | 3 | Miami | 11/3/0/6 | D5 21 | D5 HOUS 21 | Undersized former draft pick hasn't solidified role. |
| 8 | *Metchie III, John | 5-11 | 187 | R | Alabama | 0/0/0/0 | D2 22 | D2 HOUS 22 | Inspirational comeback afoot from leukemia; looking great in workouts. |
| 84 | Quitoriano, Teagan (TE) | 6-6 | 258 | 2 | Oregon State | 9/6/0/1 | D5 22 | D5 HOUS 22 | Strong blocker showed ability to stretch field, make leaping catches. |
| 3 | Rodgers, Amari (RS) | 5-9 | 212 | 3 | Clemson | 16/2/0/2 | W,GB 22 | D3 GB 21 | Fumbling issue didn't follow him from Packers; in a battle for playing time. |
| 86 | Schreck, Mason (TE) | 6-5 | 252 | 5 | Buffalo | 3/1/0/0 | FA 23 | D7 CIN 17 | Rugged blocking tight end forged a role; in a fight for roster spot. |
| 83 | Schultz, Dalton (TE) | 6-5 | 244 | 6 | Stanford | 15/15/0/2 | UFA,DALL 23 | D4 DALL 18 | Polished, technically sound pass-catching tight end is proven commodity. |
| 82 | Sims Jr., Steven | 5-10 | 176 | 4 | Kansas | 12/2/0/5 | FA 23 | CFA WSH 19 | Explosive return man has run after-the-catch ability. |
| 87 | Tomlinson, Eric (TE) | 6-6 | 263 | 8 | Texas-El Paso | 17/12 | FA 23 | CFA PHA 15 | Blocking journeyman tight end rejoins his hometown team. |
| 2 | Woods, Robert | 6-0 | 195 | 11 | Southern Cal | 17/15 | FA 23 | D2 BUFF 13 | Closest thing to WR1 there is on team after Brandin Cooks trade. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 76 | Deculus, Austin (T) | 6-5 | 321 | 2 | Louisiana State | 5/0/1/11 | D6 22 | D6 HOUS 22 | Houston native played sparingly as a rookie; in a fight to make the team. |
| 63 | Deiter, Michael (C) | 6-6 | 315 | 5 | Wisconsin | 17/0 | UFA,MIA 23 | D3 MIA 19 | Didn't play an offensive snap last season for Dolphins; former starter. |
| 59 | Green, Kenyon (LG) | 6-4 | 323 | 2 | Texas A&M | 15/14/0/2 | D1 22 | D1 HOUS 22 | Strugged mightily as a rookie starter; looking to improve coming off knee surgery. |
| 67 | Heck, Charlie (T) | 6-8 | 311 | 4 | North Carolina | 17/3 | D4 20 | D4 HOUS 20 | Towering swing tackle would start for many teams; son of Chiefs line coach Andy Heck. |
| 71 | Howard, Tytus (RT) | 6-5 | 322 | 4 | Alabama State | 17/17 | D1 19 | D1 HOUS 19 | Mauling right tackle; former first-rounder is a candidate for big extension. |
| | Little, Greg (T) | 6-5 | 310 | 5 | Mississippi | 17/7 | FA 23 | D2 CARO 19 | Disappointing former Panthers second-rounder has value as swing tackle. |
| 69 | Mason, Shaq (RG) | 6-1 | 310 | 9 | Georgia Tech | 17/17 | T,TB 23 | D4 NE 15 | Major upgrade as new starting right guard; replacement for A.J. Cann. |
| 79 | Morrissey, Jimmy (C) | 6-3 | 303 | 3 | Pittsburgh | 8/0/5/2 | FA 22 | D7 LV 21 | Former Burlsworth Trophy winner is an ascending young lineman; keeps getting stronger. |
| 68 | Patterson, Jarrett (C) | 6-4 | 310 | R | Notre Dame | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 HOUS 23 | Versatile interior blocker didn't allow sack for Fighting Irish; needs to get stronger. |
| 54 | Quessenberry, Scott (C) | 6-3 | 310 | 6 | UCLA | 16/16/1/0 | UFA,LAC 22 | D5 LAC 18 | Held his own as starter when Justin Britt had personal issues; fighting to keep job. |
| 70 | Scruggs, Juice (C) | 6-3 | 310 | R | Penn State | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 HOUS 23 | Projected instant starter plays with nasty streak; drafted bit higher than projected. |
| 78 | Tunsil, Laremy (LT) | 6-5 | 313 | 8 | Mississippi | 17/17 | T,MIA 19 | D1 MIA 16 | Highest-paid OL in NFL at $25M a year; elite pass blocker, highest grade in league. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | *Boone, Mike | 5-10 | 205 | 6 | Cincinnati | 9/0/0/0 | UFA,DEN 23 | CFA MINN 18 | Fast, stocky backup has career 5.2 average per carry; always falling forward. |
| 34 | Hairston, Troy (FB) | 5-11 | 245 | 2 | Central Michigan | 16/5/0/1 | CFA 22 | CFA HOUS 22 | Hard-nosed lead blocker proved his mettle as undrafted rookie earning roster spot. |
| 33 | Ogunbowale, Dare | 5-11 | 205 | 5 | Wisconsin | 17/4 | FA 22 | CFA HOUS 17 | Special teams is his emphasis, but he can perform on offense when called upon. |
| 31 | *Pierce, Dameon | 5-10 | 218 | 2 | Florida | 13/13/0/0 | D2 22 | D2 HOUS 22 | Angriest Run of the Year, Pro-Bowl alternate as rookie; centerpiece of running game. |
| 26 | Singletary, Devin | 5-7 | 203 | 5 | Florida Atlantic | 16/16 | UFA,BUFF 23 | D3 BUFF 19 | Pass-catching, complementary back has track record of elusiveness. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | Keenum, Case | 6-1 | 215 | 11 | Houston | 2/0/14/0 | UFA,BUFF 23 | CFA HOUS 12 | Journeyman backup on third stint in Houston; slated for mentoring duties. |
| 10 | Mills, Davis | 6-4 | 225 | 3 | Stanford | 15/15/2/0 | D3 21 | D3 HOUS 21 | A two-year starter, Mills has a lot of tools and traits, but lacks consistency. |
| 7 | Stroud, C.J. | 6-3 | 218 | R | Ohio State | 0/0 | D1 23 | D1 HOUS 23 | Strong-armed, classic pocket passer is projected as QB1, face of franchise. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 51 | Anderson Jr., Will (E) | 6-4 | 243 | R | Alabama | 0/0 | D1 23 | D1 HOUS 23 | Relentless pass rusher ranked highest on Texans draft board; huge trade investment. |
| 56 | Booker IV, Thomas (T) | 6-3 | 301 | 2 | Stanford | 10/1/0/7 | D5 22 | D5 HOUS 22 | Had relatively quiet rookie season; absorbed a lot of knowledge in spot action. |
| 96 | Collins, Maliek (T) | 6-2 | 310 | 8 | Nebraska | 15/15/0/2 | UFA,LV 21 | D3 DALL 16 | Whirling dervish in the middle keeps honing his pass-rushing techniques. |
| 52 | Greenard, Jonathan (E) | 6-3 | 263 | 4 | Florida | 8/4/0/1 | D3 20 | D3 HOUS 20 | Spin move and long-arm technique are on point; only needs to stay healthy. |
| 94 | Harris, Demone (E) | 6-4 | 272 | 4 | Buffalo | 3/0/0/4 | FA 23 | CFA TB 18 | Excelled during preseason a year ago. Will he earn in-season role? |
| 93 | Hinish, Kurt (T) | 6-2 | 300 | 2 | Notre Dame | 15/3/0/2 | CFA 22 | CFA HOUS 22 | Gritty undrafted player made the squad by pushing the point of attack. |
| 92 | Horton, Dylan (E) | 6-4 | 275 | R | Texas Christian | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 HOUS 23 | Bulked-up edge-setter is converted linebacker-safety; known for strong work ethic. |
| 55 | Hughes, Jerry (E) | 6-2 | 254 | 13 | Texas Christian | 17/16 | FA 22 | D1 IND 10 | Smooth veteran pass rusher has most polished moves on the team. |
| 91 | Lopez, Roy (T) | 6-2 | 318 | 3 | Arizona | 17/14 | D6 21 | D6 HOUS 21 | Block-clogging run-stuffer keeps overachieving every season. |
| 98 | Rankins, Sheldon (T) | 6-2 | 305 | 8 | Louisville | 15/15/0/2 | UFA,NYJ 23 | D1 NORL 16 | Disruptive former Saints first-rounder is highest-paid defensive lineman on roster. |
| 97 | *Ridgeway, Hassan (DT) | 6-3 | 305 | 7 | Texas | 12/7/0/1 | UFA,SF 23 | D4 IND 16 | Ex-49ers starter figures into equation as third defensive tackle. |
| 95 | *Rivers, Derek (E) | 6-5 | 250 | 7 | Youngstown State | 0/0/0/0 | FA 21 | D3 NE 17 | Torn biceps behind him; tall, lean edge rusher in a battle for a roster spot. |
| 90 | *Stallworth, Taylor (T) | 6-2 | 300 | 6 | South Carolina | 7/0/0/1 | W,KC 22 | CFA NORL 18 | Recovered from shoulder surgery; good enough to be part of defensive rotation. |
| 50 | Winovich, Chase (E) | 6-3 | 250 | 5 | Michigan | 8/2/0/2 | UFA,CLV 23 | D3 NE 19 | Michigan man has some effective pass-rushing moves. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 49 | Carter Jr., Jermaine (O) | 6-0 | 229 | 6 | Maryland | 7/1/0/0 | FA 23 | D5 CARO 18 | Two years ago, he was a starter for Carolina and now he's in battle for roster spot. |
| 53 | Cashman, Blake (O) | 6-1 | 237 | 4 | Minnesota | 16/1/0/1 | T,NYJ 22 | D6 NYJ 19 | Ripped-up backup produces whenever he's healthy, but has history of hamstring issues. |
| 35 | Hansen, Jake (O) | 6-1 | 235 | 2 | Illinois | 11/2/0/6 | CFA 22 | CFA HOUS 22 | Undersized playmaker slips blocks well; finds the football quickly. |
| 48 | Harris, Christian (O) | 6-1 | 226 | 2 | Alabama | 12/11/0/0 | D3 22 | D3 HOUS 22 | Most athletic linebacker in AFC South; hit stride late in season. |
| 57 | Hewitt, Neville (O) | 6-2 | 234 | 9 | Marshall | 14/0/0/3 | FA 23 | CFA MIA 15 | Typecast as special-teams type; has proven he can produce as two-down guy. |
| 58 | Kirksey, Christian (O) | 6-2 | 235 | 10 | Iowa | 17/17 | FA 21 | D3 CLV 14 | Defensive team captain is coming off disappointing season as run-stopper. |
| 42 | Littleton, Cory (O) | 6-3 | 228 | 8 | Washington | 15/7/0/2 | UFA,CARO 23 | CFA LA 16 | Versatile key backup figures into the equation as a spot starter, rotational player. |
| 6 | *Perryman, Denzel (M) | 5-11 | 240 | 9 | Miami | 12/11/0/3 | UFA,LV 23 | D2 SD 15 | Thumper in the middle expected to push for a starting job coming off pectoral injury. |
| 39 | To'oTo'o, Henry (M) | 6-2 | 228 | R | Alabama | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 HOUS 23 | Classic run-and-hit off-ball type who consistently finds the football. |
| 32 | Wallow, Garret (O) | 6-2 | 230 | 3 | Texas Christian | 13/3/0/4 | D5 21 | D5 HOUS 21 | Heady, instinctive and tough; making sound recovery from ankle surgery. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | Arnold, Grayland (S) | 5-10 | 187 | 3 | Baylor | 8/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA PHA 20 | Lacks ideal height, but has the range and ball skills to stick again. |
| 38 | Francis, Cobi | 5-11 | 193 | 2 | Memphis | 5/0/0/2 | FA 22 | CFA HOUS 22 | Special-teams is his pathway onto the active roster; has the requisite speed. |
| 43 | Gillespie, Tyree (S) | 6-0 | 207 | 3 | Missouri | 3/0/1/10 | W,JAX 23 | D4 LV 21 | Former Raiders draft pick has requisite size-speed combination. |
| 36 | Hill, Brandon (S) | 5-11 | 195 | R | Pittsburgh | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 HOUS 23 | Speedy homing missile drafted for specific reason: kick coverage, backup DB. |
| 0 | King II, Desmond (CB/RS) | 5-10 | 200 | 7 | Iowa | 17/13 | UFA,TENN 21 | D5 LAC 17 | Proven nickel back has nose for football and return skills. |
| 23 | Murray, Eric (S) | 5-11 | 199 | 8 | Minnesota | 17/0 | UFA,CLV 20 | D4 KC 16 | On a restructured deal; versatile reserve safety still capable of starting in a pinch. |
| 21 | Nelson, Steven (CB) | 5-11 | 194 | 9 | Oregon State | 15/15/0/2 | UFA,PHA 22 | D3 KC 15 | One of top No. 2 corners in NFL; Nelson hasn't slowed down a beat. |
| 44 | *Phillips, Darius (CB) | 5-10 | 190 | 6 | Western Michigan | 9/0/0/5 | FA 23 | D5 CIN 18 | Former Bengals fifth-round pick is undersized, but solid in secondary and on returns. |
| 5 | Pitre, Jalen (S) | 5-11 | 198 | 2 | Baylor | 17/17 | D2 22 | D2 HOUS 22 | Tackling machine provides ball-hawking presence; led all NFL rookies in tackles, picks. |
| 29 | Stewart Jr., M.J. (CB) | 5-11 | 200 | 6 | North Carolina | 17/0 | UFA,CLV 22 | D2 TB 18 | Elite special-teams contributor was signed to lucrative free-agent deal. |
| 24 | *Stingley Jr., Derek (CB) | 6-0 | 190 | 2 | Louisiana State | 9/9/0/4 | D1 22 | D1 HOUS 22 | Before a hamstring injury ended season, Stingley flashed shutdown corner skills. |
| 4 | Thomas, Tavierre (CB) | 5-10 | 205 | 6 | Ferris State | 10/6/0/0 | FA 21 | CFA ARIZ 18 | Once he recovered from quadriceps injury, Thomas got back to business: making plays. |
| 1 | Ward, Jimmie (S) | 5-11 | 195 | 10 | Northern Illinois | 12/5/0/1 | UFA,SF 23 | D1 SF 14 | Hard-hitting, rangy former 49ers FS can help implement DeMeco Ryans' defensive system. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Fairbairn, Ka'imi (K) | 6-0 | 183 | 8 | UCLA | 17/0 | CFA 16 | CFA HOUS 16 | Extremely accurate kicker has improved his success rate on 50-yard-plus field goals |
| 11 | Johnston, Cameron (P) | 5-11 | 194 | 6 | Ohio State | 17/0 | FA 21 | CFA PHA 17 | Australia native has outstanding hang time; improved placement on coffin-corner punts. |
| 46 | Weeks, Jon (LS) | 5-10 | 242 | 14 | Baylor | 17/0 | FA 20 | CFA HOUS 10 | Ultra-reliable, longest-tenured player in club history has record for consecutive games. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Alex Bachman (1, Wake Forest), Jalen Camp (1, Georgia Tech), Johnny Johnson III (1, Oregon); RB Gerrid Doaks (1, Cincinnati); QB EJ Perry (1, Brown); DE Adedayo Odeleye (1, None); CBs Ka'Dar Hollman (3, Toledo), D'Angelo Ross (2, New Mexico), Kendall Sheffield (4, Ohio State).



Jerry Hughes
Photo by Cooper Neill via AP

strengths of his," general manager Nick Caserio said. "C.J. has qualities that we like, which is why we felt comfortable making the pick we did."

**RATING: 6.5**

## RUNNING BACKS

Dameon Pierce earned the Angriest Run of the Year award for his epic tackle-breaking display against the Jacksonville Jaguars, and that run defined a strong rookie season for the fourth-round pick. Pierce bulldozed tacklers and displayed breakaway speed on occasion before an ankle injury ended his rookie season with 939 rushing yards. The Texans envision building the offense around Pierce's aggressive running style. "You need a guy like Dameon who can carry the load," Ryans said. "That's the type of style I want to play, offensively and defensively, playing a physical brand of football and Dameon fits the bill."

The Texans signed former Bills running back Devin Singletary as a complementary running and receiving presence and added fullback/tight end Andrew Beck as a lead blocker.

**RATING: 7**

## RECEIVERS

It's a crowded position despite trading deep threat Brandin Cooks to the Cowboys. Robert Woods is considered the top candidate to fill that role. Nico Collins provides size and length on jump balls and toughness over the middle. Tank Dell is undersized, but is a dynamic route-runner. The Texans are hopeful that John Metchie III will be able to play and make a strong comeback after missing his entire rookie season with leukemia. Xavier Hutchinson is considered a sleeper to earn a lot of playing time with his ability to play outside or inside. Tight end Dalton Schultz is arguably the best receiving option the Texans have.

**RATING: 6.5**

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

### KEY ADDITION:

**QB C.J. Stroud**
Stroud is accurate, tall and carries a healthy chip on his shoulder after questions raised about an S2 cognitive test came up during the draft process. The goal is for him to ascend into a franchise quarterback.

### OTHER ADDITIONS:

TE/FB Andrew Beck, RB Mike Boone, WR Noah Brown, LB Jermaine Carter, C Michael Deiter, S Tyree Gillespie, QB Case Keenum, T Greg Little, LB Cory Littleton, G Shaq Mason, LB Denzel Perryman, CB Darius Phillips, DT Sheldon Rankins, DT Hassan Ridgeway, TE Dalton Schultz, WR Steven Sims, RB Devin Singletary, TE Eric Tomlinson, S Jimmie Ward, DE Chase Winovich, WR Robert Woods

### KEY LOSS:

**WR Brandin Cooks (13/13)***
When the Texans finally traded the former disgruntled wide receiver to the Dallas Cowboys, they gave away their only dangerous deep threat. Replacing a legitimate 4.33 sprinter and proven route-runner is a difficult task for this offense.

### OTHER LOSSES:

DE Marlon Addison (12/1), TE Jordan Akins (15/7), **QB Kyle Allen (2/2)**, RB Darius Anderson (0/0), C Justin Britt (1/1), RB Rex Burkhead (16/0), **G A.J. Cann (16/16)**, WR Phillip Dorsett (15/4), QB Jeff Driskel (7/2), RB Royce Freeman (4/1), DE Rasheem Green (16/5), **TE O.J. Howard (15/14)**, C Justin McCray (12/2), WR Chris Moore (16/7), DE Ogbonnia Okoronkwo (17/8), **S Jonathan Owens (17/17)**, LB Kevin Pierre-Lewis (2/0), LB Jalen Reeves-Maybin (17/0), CB Tremon Smith (17/2)*
**Total games played/started lost: 230/102**

### STARTERS RETURNING

18: 8 offense, 10 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS

JALEN PITRE

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Davis Mills | 479 | 292 | 3118 | 17 | 15 |
| Kyle Allen | 78 | 46 | 416 | 2 | 4 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dameon Pierce | 220 | 939 | 4.3 | 4 |
| Dare Ogunbowale | 42 | 123 | 2.9 | 1 |
| Royce Freeman | 41 | 117 | 2.9 | 0 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brandin Cooks | 57 | 699 | 12.3 | 3 |
| Chris Moore | 48 | 548 | 11.4 | 2 |
| Jordan Akins | 37 | 495 | 13.4 | 5 |

**Kicking:** Fairbairn 24/24 XPs, 29/31 FGs, 111 points
**Tackles:** Pitre 147, Owens 125, Kirksey 124
**Sacks:** Hughes 9, Okoronkwo 5, Green 3.5, Collins 3.5
**INTs:** Pitre 5, King 2, Smith 2, Kirksey 2

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 283.5 | 31 |
| Passing Offense | 196.7 | 25 |
| Rushing Offense | 86.8 | 31 |
| Points | 17 | T-30 |
| Sacked | 38 | T-13 |
| 3rd Down % | 30.3 | 31 |

| Defense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Defense | 379.5 | 30 |
| Passing Defense | 209.3 | 10 |
| Rushing Defense | 170.2 | 32 |
| Points Allowed | 24.7 | 27 |
| INTs | 16 | T-7 |
| Sacks | 39 | T-18 |
| Turnover Diff. | -1 | T-16 |

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Left tackle Laremy Tunsil became the highest paid offensive lineman in the game again this offseason when he signed a three-year, $75 million contract extension. Tunsil was the highest-graded pass blocker in the game last season. Right tackle Tytus Howard is half of one of the better tackle tandems in the league. The Texans upgraded at right guard by trading for former Buccaneers and Patriots starter Shaq Mason. It will be a competitive situation at center between rookie Juice Scruggs and Scott Quessenberry, last year's starter. Kenyon Green had a rough rookie year and had offseason knee surgery, but is still in line to be the left guard with improved health and conditioning.

**RATING: 7**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Texans are banking on Anderson injecting their pass rush and run-stopping with some juice. Defensive end Jerry Hughes had nine sacks in his first season in Houston, at age 34. Sheldon Rankins' arrival as a disruptive interior presence should take pressure off Maliek Collins. If the Texans get a full season out of Jonathan Greenard after he battled a calf injury last season, this becomes a much stronger position. Roy Lopez gives the Texans size and grit along with Kurt Hinish inside. Not retaining Ogbo Okoronkwo after a breakthrough season takes away from the pass rush. He signed with the Browns when negotiations hit an impasse.

**RATING: 6.5**

## LINEBACKERS

Once Christian Harris got on the field, his run-and-hit style made an impact. Harris (4.4 speed) outplayed veteran Christian Kirksey, who's still in place as a defensive signal-caller. Denzel Perryman joined the Texans and has a reputation as a tone-setting thumper in the middle. Rookie Henry To'oTo'o should push for an early role. There's solid depth with Cory Littleton, Blake Cashman and Garret Wallow.

**RATING: 6.5**

## SECONDARY

This is arguably the soundest group on the team. Derek Stingley Jr. flashed cover skills before a hamstring injury ended his season. He was trusted to shadow top receivers as a rookie. Steven Nelson had one of his best seasons in years last season, allowing just 9.9 yards per catch. Desmond King fits in well as an instinctive nickel. Free safety Jalen Pitre intercepted five passes and led the team in tackles as a rookie. The Texans added former 49ers safety Jimmie Ward to replace free agent Jonathan Owens, who wasn't retained, add toughness and teach how Ryans wants the defense to play. Tavierre Thomas is back on a new deal after a quadriceps injury abbreviated his season last year.

**RATING: 7.5**

## SPECIALISTS

Ka'imi Fairbairn is one of the most accurate kickers in the NFL, connecting on 29 of 31 field-goal attempts last season and was perfect on extra points. Cameron Johnston is a booming punter with good directional ability who averaged 48.1 yards last season. The return game gets a boost with the additions of Steven Sims Jr. and rookie Tank Dell. Former Pro-Bowl long snapper Jon Weeks, the longest-tenured player in franchise history, is coming off another perfect season. Frank Ross' special-teams units were ranked first statistically in the annual Rick Gosselin rankings.

**RATING: 7.5**

## INTANGIBLES

Three losing seasons in a row haven't slowed down the enthusiasm surrounding Ryans' arrival. A fan base that had become apathetic is energized again, and renewing season tickets at a much higher rate than a year ago. The Texans are planning to change uniforms by 2024 and are rebranding with Ryans as their centerpiece.

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Aaron Wilson

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. As much as the Texans will be patient and don't rush the rookie, C.J. Stroud is the most talented passer on the roster. Whether he starts the first game isn't as important as being truly ready and equipped to make progress in his first NFL season.

2. Under Lovie Smith, the Texans were extremely vulnerable against the run as shoddy tackling, a smaller interior defensive line and a lack of pop at linebacker made for a porous defense. Defensive tackle Sheldon Rankins and linebacker Denzel Perryman should fortify the middle, while Will Anderson Jr. sets the edge.

3. Is there a go-to receiver? Not really. There are plenty of complementary downfield targets and Robert Woods is the de facto WR1, but this group is in flux. If John Metchie III makes an epic comeback from leukemia, this position gets better fast.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 3-13-1**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | INDIANAPOLIS (OT) | 20-20 |
| Sept. 18 | at Denver | 9-16 |
| Sept. 25 | at Chicago | 20-23 |
| Oct. 2 | L.A. CHARGERS | 24-34 |
| Oct. 9 | at Jacksonville | 13-6 |
| Oct. 23 | at Las Vegas | 20-38 |
| Oct. 30 | TENNESSEE | 10-17 |
| Nov. 3 | PHILADELPHIA | 17-29 |
| Nov. 13 | at N.Y. Giants | 16-24 |
| Nov. 20 | WASHINGTON | 10-23 |
| Nov. 27 | at Miami | 15-30 |
| Dec. 4 | CLEVELAND | 14-27 |
| Dec. 11 | at Dallas | 23-27 |
| Dec. 18 | KANSAS CITY (OT) | 24-30 |
| Dec. 24 | at Tennessee | 19-14 |
| Jan. 1 | JACKSONVILLE | 3-31 |
| Jan. 8 | at Indianapolis | 32-31 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Central**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10 | at New England (Thu) | TBD |
| Aug. 19 | MIAMI (Sat) | 7:00 |
| Aug. 27 | at New Orleans (Sun) | 7:00 |
| Sept. 10 | at Baltimore | 12:00 |
| Sept. 17 | INDIANAPOLIS | 12:00 |
| Sept. 24 | at Jacksonville | 12:00 |
| Oct. 1 | PITTSBURGH | 12:00 |
| Oct. 8 | at Atlanta | 12:00 |
| Oct. 15 | NEW ORLEANS | 12:00 |
| | BYE | |
| Oct. 29 | at Carolina | 12:00 |
| Nov. 5 | TAMPA BAY | 12:00 |
| Nov. 12 | at Cincinnati | 12:00 |
| Nov. 19 | ARIZONA | 12:00 |
| Nov. 26 | JACKSONVILLE | 12:00 |
| Dec. 3 | DENVER | 3:05 |
| Dec. 10 | at N.Y. Jets | 12:00 |
| Dec. 17 | at Tennessee | 12:00 |
| Dec. 24 | CLEVELAND | 12:00 |
| Dec. 31 | TENNESSEE | 12:00 |
| TBD | at Indianapolis | TBD |

# INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

## Yet Another Change Under Center for Colts

The misperception that the Colts needed a few players to be a serious playoff contender unraveled with a 4-12-1 implosion that cost head coach Frank Reich his job and placed general manager Chris Ballard on notice that the franchise must progress in 2023. Another turn on the veteran quarterback carousel didn't work as Matt Ryan became shell-shocked with turnovers behind a shaky line. Rushing champ Jonathan Taylor fell off with an ankle injury. A defense without linebacker Shaquille Leonard wilted. The Colts' blues sank to a historic low in Minnesota, where they blew a 33-0 halftime lead and lost 39-36 in overtime.

New head coach Shane Steichen arrived after helping Philadelphia reach the Super Bowl as an offensive coordinator who worked wonders with quarterback Jalen Hurts. He's entrusted with devising an offense in which rookie passer Anthony Richardson can thrive. A defense missing its top pass rusher and cover corner will rebuild with more inexperienced parts. Leonard suggests he'll be healthy.

There's no denying owner Jim Irsay became impatient and expected changes, hence Reich's firing after a 3-5-1 start. Ballard took a chance on using the fourth overall pick to select Richardson, who didn't have a lot of college experience, but could blossom into an athletic threat to build an offense around.

The Colts have one playoff win in eight years and haven't won the AFC South Division title since 2014. The road back to respectability will likely take time.

**Michael Pittman Jr.**
Photo by Joe Robbins

**T3**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 4-12-1

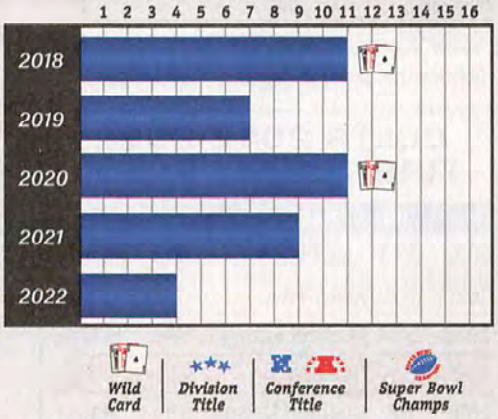
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 1-4-1

**STADIUM:** Lucas Oil Stadium (Retractable roof)

**CAPACITY:** 63,000

**SURFACE:** Motz Group/Shaw Sports Turf

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

P.O. BOX 535000
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46253
(317) 297-2658
WWW.COLTS.COM

**TRAINING CAMP:** Grand Park Sports Campus; Westfield, IN
**HEAD COACH:** Shane Steichen
• 1st season as Colts/NFL head coach
**OWNER AND CEO:** James Irsay
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Chris Ballard
**ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER:** Ed Dodds
**CHIEF PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE:** Morocco Brown
**DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Kevin Rogers
**DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Matt Terpening
**DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:** Jon Shaw

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jim Bob Cooter | Offensive coordinator | 14 | 4 |
| Cam Turner | Quarterbacks | 11 | 1 |
| Tony Sparano Jr. | Offensive line | 13 | 1 |
| Chris Watt | Assistant line | 1 | 1 |
| Tom Manning | Tight ends | 2 | 2 |
| DeAndre Smith | Running backs | 2 | 1 |
| Reggie Wayne | Receivers | 2 | 2 |
| Brian Bratton | Off. QC/receivers | 2 | 2 |
| Gus Bradley | Defensive coordinator | 18 | 2 |
| Nate Ollie | Defensive line | 5 | 2 |
| Matt Raich | Assistant line | 20 | 4 |
| Richard Smith | *Linebackers | 36 | 2 |
| Cato June | Assistant linebackers | 2 | 2 |
| Ron Milus | Defensive backs | 24 | 2 |
| Mike Mitchell | Asst. defensive backs | 2 | 2 |
| Payton McCollum | Defensive assistant | 3 | 1 |
| Brent Jackson | Def. quality control | 21 | 2 |
| Brian Mason | Special teams coord. | 1 | 1 |
| Joe Hastings | Asst. special teams | 3 | 3 |
| Rusty Jones | Dir. Sports performance | 34 | 6 |
| Richard Howell | Head S&C | 24 | 24 |
| Doug McKenney | Applied sports sci./cond. | 6 | 6 |
| Zane Fakes | Asst. S&C | 6 | 6 |
| Sam Khym | Funct. movement/cond. | Q | q |

*Defensive run game coordinator

## COLTS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 2/53 | Alec Pierce | WR | Starter |
| 2021 | 1/21 | Kwity Paye | DE | Starter |
| 2020 | 2/34 | Michael Pittman | WR | Starter |
| 2019 | 2/34 | Rock Ya-Sin | CB | UFA |
| 2018 | 1/6 | Quenton Nelson | G | Starter |

## COACHING

Steichen, at 37, is part of the NFL's growing trend toward giving younger coaches a chance. He was an offensive coordinator for four years. Like Reich, Steichen intends to call plays, a role he had with the Eagles. But he doesn't have as many weapons as in Philadelphia to surround the quarterback, which typically means a coach has to be creative in finding what works. One of the coaching holdovers is defensive coordinator Gus Bradley, who did a decent job for the first half of the season before 2022 skidded with a 1-7 finish. Bradley has 17 years NFL experience, so his voice will be trusted as the Colts try to improve a defense that had a so-so pass rush and won't be as proven in pass coverage.

**RATING: 7**

## QUARTERBACKS

Ballard signed free agent Gardner Minshew to provide a veteran presence to the room, but the hope is that he's not another rental thrust into a starting role. The since-released Ryan, who lost five of 15 fumbles and threw 13 interceptions in 12 games, was the Colts' sixth different starting quarterback in as many years in Week 1. Minshew has started 24 NFL games, 11 more than Richardson did in college, but the veteran was 8-16 in those games. Richardson completed only 54.7 percent of his passes at Florida, so accuracy is a concern. But he also rushed for 1,116 yards and 12 scores in 24 games, so Steichen and offensive coordinator Jim Bob Cooter will want to utilize the rookie's speed to stretch defenses and force tacklers to respect the quarterback's running ability. Question is, how quickly will Richardson be ready to take the reins?

**RATING: 6**

## RUNNING BACKS

While it might be unrealistic to expect Taylor to rush for 1,811 yards and 18 touchdowns as the NFL rushing leader did in 2021, a dropoff to only 861 yards in 11 starts due to injuries prevented the Colts from relying on the ground game. His healthy return is key because it gives Steichen something to build a game plan around that doesn't require taxing the quarterback, whomever it is. Zack Moss was acquired for Nyheim Hines last season and is a capable backup, but the Colts miss Hines, a third-down specialist who shined as a pass-catcher. The Colts liked fifth-round pick Evan Hull for his pass-catching, so there's an opportunity for him to play a role.

**RATING: 7.5**

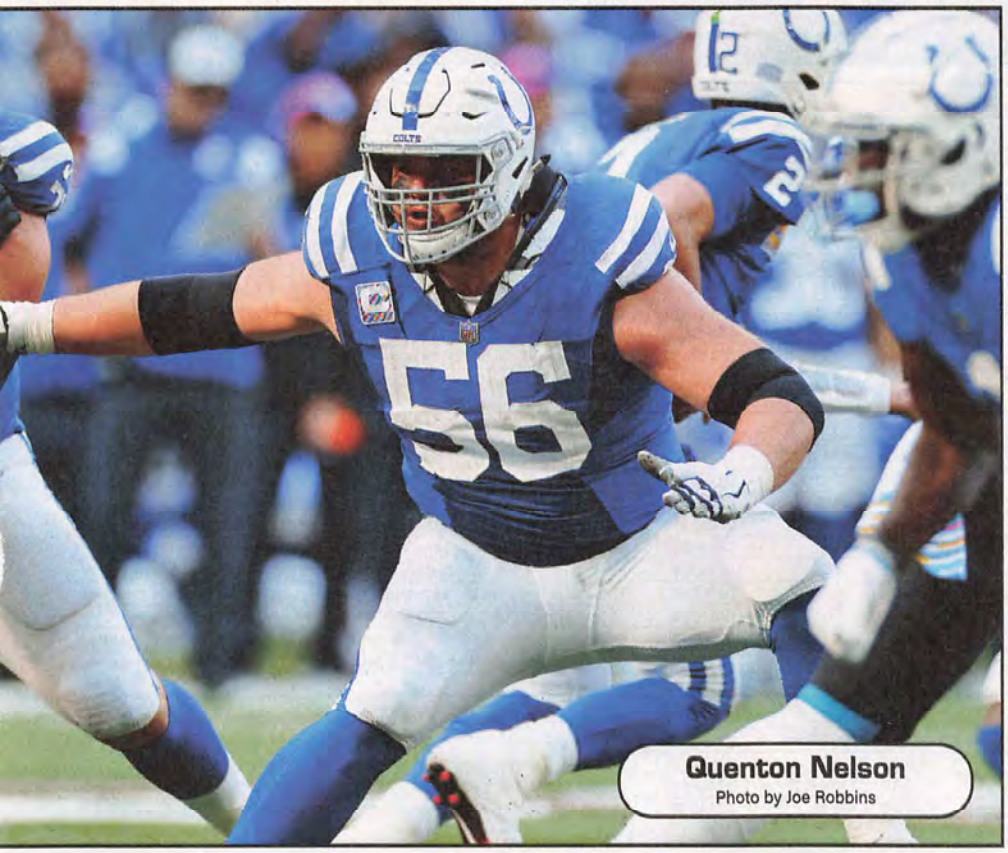
## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

One of the biggest beneficiaries from the arrival of new head coach Shane Steichen will be second-year WR Alec Pierce. His size and speed dimensions enable him to win one-on-one matchups on the perimeter, or over the middle. Despite instability at quarterback and an underdeveloped route tree, Pierce managed to haul in 41 balls for 593 receiving yards during his first season. Don't be surprised to see those numbers double in Year 2. ... There are great expectations within the team facility for the development of DT **Eric Johnson.** Coming from the small-school ranks of Missouri State and learning an entirely new scheme was certainly a big learning curve as a rookie. Look for Johnson to emerge as a key cog up front along the defensive line rotation and make his presence known. ... In between injuries, DE **Kwity Paye** provided a much-needed pass-rush presence. In what was supposed to be a bust-out season, Paye saw his tackles for loss (10) and sacks (six) both increase, but dealt with various ailments, which ultimately prevented him from taking the much anticipated next step. Look for more progress in 2023, as double-digit sacks should be a very realistic goal. The Colts need their young players to advance.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

**SHAQUILLE LEONARD**

The three-time All-Pro made only one start due to a lingering nerve issue in his back, which has required two procedures since last summer. "The Maniac" concedes 2022 was the hardest year of his career, but insists he's feeling better than he did all of last year. A team-high $19.7 million cap hit suggests Leonard needs to return to his playmaking form to justify the expense with four years remaining on his contract. When healthy, he's one of the league's most dynamic defenders in making splash plays. The catalyst had at least 121 tackles in each of his first four seasons with 15 sacks, 11 interceptions and 17 forced fumbles.



Quenton Nelson
Photo by Joe Robbins

## RECEIVERS

No. 1 Michael Pittman Jr. has carried the group the past two years with 187 catches for 2,007 yards and 10 touchdowns. But defenses knew it and doubled him in key situations. The Colts didn't have another reliable option. Parris Campbell finally stayed healthy with modest success, but he was allowed to sign with the Giants. Alec Pierce's 41 catches for 593 yards were OK for a rookie, but he needs to make more plays. The addition of free agent Isaiah McKenzie provides a speed option. He started eight of 15 games with the Bills and had 42 catches for 423 yards and four touchdowns last year.

The Colts used a third-pound pick on another speedy slot option in Josh Downs, who dominated at times at North Carolina, but also had an issue with drops. Put tight ends Mo Alie-Cox, Kylen Granson and Jelani Woods together and you have a solid player. But all three were inconsistent, hence the Colts drafted Will Mallory in the fifth round.

**RATING: 6.5**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The highest-paid line in the NFL couldn't have been more of a disappointment in 2022. The Colts allowed 60 sacks, second-most in the league. Pro-Bowl center Ryan Kelly was pushed around too often. Pro-Bowl left guard Quenton Nelson and right tackle Braden

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

### KEY ADDITION

**QB Anthony Richardson**

The fourth overall draft selection is touted as the passer of the future, but the rookie is raw and likely needs time to learn. He has great athleticism, but must improve passing accuracy.

### OTHER ADDITIONS:

TE Pharaoh Brown, DT Taven Bryan, DE Samson Ebukam, K Matt Gay, WR/RS Isaiah McKenzie, QB Gardner Minshew

### KEY LOSS:

**LB Bobby Okereke (17/16)***

The team's second-leading tackler with 283 stops the past two seasons was best in pass coverage. The speedy defender leaves a hole after signing a four-year deal with Giants.

### OTHER LOSSES:

DE Ben Banogu (16/0), DE Kameron Cline (3/0), **WR Parris Campbell (17/16)**, DT Byron Cowart (17/0), CB Brandon Facyson (16/4), QB Nick Foles (3/2); **CB Stephon Gilmore (16/16)**, P Matt Haack (17/0), TE Nikola Kalinic (7/2), T Dennis Kelly (16/3), K Chase McLaughlin (16/0), S Rodney McLeod (17/15), DE Yannick Ngakoue (15/15), T Matt Pryor (16/9), QB Matt Ryan (12/12), S Armani Watts (0/0), DT Chris Williams (5/0)*

**Total games played/started: 226/110**

### STARTERS RETURNING

15: 8 offense, 7 defense, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS

JONATHAN TAYLOR

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Matt Ryan | 461 | 309 | 3057 | 14 | 13 |
| Sam Ehlinger | 101 | 64 | 573 | 3 | 3 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jonathan Taylor | 192 | 861 | 4.5 | 4 |
| Zack Moss | 76 | 365 | 4.8 | 1 |
| Deon Jackson | 68 | 236 | 3.5 | 1 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Michael Pittman | 99 | 925 | 9.3 | 4 |
| Parris Campbell | 63 | 623 | 9.9 | 3 |
| Alec Pierce | 41 | 593 | 14.5 | 2 |
| Jelani Woods | 25 | 312 | 12.5 | 3 |

**Kicking:** McLaughlin 21/21 XPs, 30/36 FGs, 111 points
**Tackles:** Franklin 166, Okereke 149, McLeod 92
**Sacks:** Ngakoue 9.5, Buckner 8, Paye 6
**INTs:** Thomas II 4, McLeod 2, Gilmore 2

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 311.6 | 27 |
| Passing Offense | 201.9 | 23 |
| Rushing Offense | 109.8 | 23 |
| Points | 17 | T-30 |
| Sacked | 60 | 31 |
| 3rd Down % | 32.9 | 29 |
| **Defense** | | |
| Total Defense | 334.0 | 15 |
| Passing Defense | 209.9 | 11 |
| Rushing Defense | 124.1 | 21 |
| Points Allowed | 25.1 | T-28 |
| INTs | 10 | T-24 |
| Sacks | 44 | T-10 |
| Turnover Diff. | -13 | 32 |

# COLTS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 81 | Alie-Cox, Mo (TE) | 6-5 | 267 | 6 | Virginia Commonwealth | 17/11 | FA 18 | FA IND 17 | Flashes of big plays, but has yet to live up to $18 million contract extension. |
| 49 | Brown, Pharaoh (TE) | 6-5 | 246 | 6 | Oregon | 16/8/0/1 | UFA,CLV 23 | CFA OAK 17 | Joins fourth team in seven years. Has just two career TD catches; on roster bubble. |
| 1 | Downs, Josh | 5-9 | 171 | R | North Carolina | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 IND 23 | Speedy rookie can earn snaps as slot option with Parris Campbell's departure. |
| 16 | Dulin, Ashton (RS) | 6-2 | 215 | 5 | Malone | 12/2/0/1 | FA 19 | CFA IND 19 | Versatile All-Pro special-teamer re-signed; adds depth as reserve pass-catcher. |
| 83 | Granson, Kylen (TE) | 6-3 | 242 | 3 | Southern Methodist | 13/4/0/4 | D4 21 | D4 IND 21 | Enters third year with 42 catches; has potential to provide more at need position. |
| 86 | Mallory, Will (TE) | 6-4 | 239 | R | Miami | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 IND 23 | Grandson of Indiana college coach could be another athletic option as a big target. |
| 6 | McKenzie, Isaiah (RS) | 5-8 | 173 | 7 | Georgia | 15/8/0/1 | FA 23 | D5 DEN 17 | Free-agent addition brings speed to slot with 141 receptions, 16 TDs in six years. |
| 85 | *Ogletree, Drew (TE) | 6-5 | 260 | 2 | Youngstown State | 0/0/0/0 | D6 22 | D6 IND 22 | Small-school project with decent size missed rookie season due to knee injury. |
| 14 | Pierce, Alec | 6-3 | 211 | 2 | Cincinnati | 16/12/0/1 | D2 22 | D2 IND 22 | Rookie year with 41 catches and two TDs; has potential to be reliable No. 2 option. |
| 11 | Pittman Jr., Michael | 6-4 | 223 | 4 | Southern Cal | 16/16/0/1 | D2 20 | D2 IND 20 | No. 1 option enters contract year looking to get paid after three solid seasons. |
| 17 | Strachan, Mike | 6-5 | 225 | 3 | Charleston | 13/0/1/3 | D7 21 | D7 IND 21 | Small-school project has only five catches in limited action entering third season. |
| 12 | Turner, Malik | 6-2 | 202 | 5 | Illinois | 3/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA SEA 18 | Journeyman with 29 catches on seventh team since 2018; longshot to earn roster spot. |
| 80 | Woods, Jelani (TE) | 6-7 | 253 | 2 | Virginia Tech | 15/2/0/2 | D3 22 | D3 IND 22 | Third-rounder showed potential as rookie, but expected to put up bigger numbers. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 73 | Freeland, Blake (T) | 6-7 | 302 | R | Brigham Young | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 IND 23 | Big fourth-round rookie will push for playing time as reserve option on left side. |
| 62 | French, Wesley (G/T) | 6-4 | 307 | 2 | Western Michigan | 0/0/3/14 | CFA 22 | CFA IND 22 | Undrafted free agent didn't play as rookie; on roster bubble in crowded interior. |
| 75 | Fries, Will (RG) | 6-6 | 305 | 3 | Penn State | 16/9/1/0 | D7 21 | D7 IND 21 | Former seventh-round selection earned nine starts in second season on right side. |
| 78 | Kelly, Ryan (C) | 6-4 | 307 | 8 | Alabama | 17/17 | D1 16 | D1 IND 16 | Three-time Pro Bowler subject of trade rumors after subpar play in seventh year. |
| 56 | Nelson, Quenton (LG) | 6-5 | 330 | 6 | Notre Dame | 17/17 | D1 18 | D1 IND 18 | Five-time Pro-Bowl star admits he didn't play up to his standards last season. |
| 61 | *O'Donnell, Carter (T) | 6-5 | 305 | 2 | Alberta, Canada | 0/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA IND 20 | Canadian project spent two years on practice squad; then missed last season on IR. |
| 63 | Pinter, Danny (G) | 6-4 | 301 | 4 | Ball State | 17/3 | D5 20 | D5 IND 20 | Reserve with seven starts in three years; yet to prove he's reliable full-time option. |
| 79 | Raimann, Bernhard (LT) | 6-6 | 303 | 2 | Central Michigan | 16/11/0/1 | D3 22 | D3 MINN 22 | Thrust into 11 starts at LT as rookie; expectedly struggled with many penalties. |
| 65 | Shepley, Dakoda (G/C) | 6-5 | 290 | 2 | British Columbia, Canada | 4/0/0/0 | W,DALL 23 | CFA NYJ 18 | Another Canadian import joins fifth team; has appeared in 13 career games. |
| 72 | Smith, Braden (RT) | 6-6 | 312 | 6 | Auburn | 16/16/0/1 | D2 18 | D2 IND 18 | Reliable on right side with 70 starts; enters sixth season as one of best blockers. |
| 76 | Witt, Jake (T) | 6-7 | 302 | R | Northern Michigan | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 IND 23 | Seventh-round rookie is another big project hoping to earn roster spot as reserve. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 37 | Funk, Jake | 5-10 | 205 | 3 | Maryland | 6/0/0/0 | FA 22 | D7 LAR 21 | Special-teams standout earned ring with Rams; on Saints practice squad last year. |
| 26 | Hull, Evan | 5-10 | 209 | R | Northwestern | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 IND 23 | Rookie pass-catching option could help fill void left by trade of Nyheim Hines. |
| 35 | Jackson, Deon | 5-11 | 216 | 3 | Duke | 16/2/0/1 | FA 21 | CFA IND 21 | Reserve has played 25 games in two years, but averages just 3.3 yards per carry. |
| 21 | Moss, Zack | 5-9 | 205 | 4 | Utah | 13/3/1/1 | T,BUFF 22 | D3 BUFF 20 | Ex-Bills back valued as experienced, versatile backup; can ease burden on Taylor. |
| 28 | *Taylor, Jonathan | 5-10 | 226 | 4 | Wisconsin | 11/11/0/3 | D2 20 | D2 IND 20 | Former NFL rushing leader looks to bounce back from down year due to ankle injury. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Ehlinger, Sam | 6-2 | 225 | 3 | Texas | 4/3/6/7 | D6 21 | D6 IND 21 | Inconsistent in four games, all losses; backup vies for roster spot in third year. |
| 10 | Minshew II, Gardner | 6-1 | 225 | 5 | Washington State | 5/2/12/0 | UFA,PHA 23 | D6 JAX 19 | Twenty-four game starter signed as free agent as possible starter in short term. |
| 5 | Richardson, Anthony | 6-4 | 244 | R | Florida | 0/0 | D1 23 | D1 IND 23 | Highly touted rookie considered QB of future based on athleticism and raw talent. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 95 | Adebawore, Adetomiwa (T) | 6-2 | 282 | R | Northwestern | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 IND 23 | Fourth-round rookie expected to compete for snaps on the interior as a reserve. |
| 74 | Berry, Rashod (E) | 6-4 | 255 | 2 | Ohio State | 0/0/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA NE 20 | Converted end has spent three years mostly on practice squads with four teams. |
| 96 | Bryan, Taven (T) | 6-4 | 291 | 6 | Florida | 16/16/0/1 | UFA,CLV 23 | D1 JAX 18 | Started 33 games in five years with two teams; hasn't lived up to first-round pick. |
| 99 | Buckner, DeForest (T) | 6-7 | 295 | 8 | Oregon | 17/16 | T,SF 20 | D1 SF 16 | One of league's best three-technique tackles; makes plays despite double teams. |
| 52 | Ebukam, Samson (E) | 6-3 | 245 | 7 | Eastern Washington | 15/15/0/2 | UFA,SF 23 | D4 LAR 17 | Showed enough potential as 49ers reserve to earn three-year deal in free agency. |
| 93 | Johnson II, Eric (T) | 6-4 | 299 | 2 | Missouri State | 14/0/0/3 | D5 22 | D5 IND 22 | Had three total tackles in 14 games as rookie reserve; vying for more snaps inside. |
| 55 | Kareem, Khalid (E) | 6-4 | 268 | 4 | Notre Dame | 4/0/0/2 | FA 23 | D5 CIN 20 | Has 27 games experience in three seasons; appeared in only four games last year. |
| 91 | Leo, Titus (E) | 6-3 | 245 | R | Wagner | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 IND 23 | Sixth-round rookie from small school showed enough edge skills to earn NFL chance. |
| 94 | *Lewis, Tyquan (E) | 6-3 | 267 | 6 | Ohio State | 7/4/0/1 | D2 18 | D2 IND 18 | Former second-round pick is injury prone; re-signed for versatility at any spot. |
| 54 | Odeyingbo, Dayo (E) | 6-6 | 286 | 3 | Vanderbilt | 17/4 | D2 21 | D2 IND 21 | Emerging reserve with five sacks in second year looks to add more pass-rush plays. |
| 51 | Paye, Kwity (E) | 6-3 | 265 | 3 | Michigan | 12/12/0/5 | D1 21 | D1 IND 21 | Promising edge rusher has amassed 10 sacks in 27 games in his first two seasons. |
| 90 | Stewart, Grover (NT) | 6-4 | 314 | 7 | Albany State (Ga.) | 17/17 | D4 17 | D4 IND 17 | Enters contract year after career-high 70 tackles, four sacks in sixth season. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 57 | Domann, JoJo (O) | 6-1 | 230 | 2 | Nebraska | 16/0/0/1 | CFA 22 | CFA IND 22 | Had four tackles in 16 games as undrafted rookie; mostly used on special teams. |
| 44 | Franklin, Zaire (M) | 6-0 | 235 | 6 | Syracuse | 17/17 | D7 18 | D7 IND 18 | Delivered after three-year extension with career-high 167 tackles in fifth season. |
| 53 | *Leonard, Shaquille (O) | 6-2 | 230 | 6 | South Carolina State | 3/1/0/6 | D2 18 | D2 IND 18 | Leader looks to bounce back to Pro-Bowl form after one start due to back issue. |
| 59 | McGrone, Cameron (O) | 6-1 | 236 | 1 | Michigan | 0/0/0/3 | FA 22 | D5 NE 21 | Hometown product claimed off Patriots practice squad; played in one game last year. |
| 45 | Speed, E.J. (O) | 6-4 | 227 | 5 | Tarleton State | 17/5 | D5 19 | D5 IND 19 | Special-teams standout had five starts in 17 games with 63 tackles in fourth year. |
| 41 | Stuard, Grant (M) | 5-11 | 230 | 3 | Houston | 15/0/0/2 | T,TAB 22 | D7 TB 21 | Acquired from Bucs for special-teams play in 2022; had 11 tackles in 15 games. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 39 | Baker Jr., Darrell (CB) | 6-1 | 190 | 1 | Georgia Southern | 3/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA ARIZ 22 | Used on special teams as rookie after being signed off Cardinals practice squad. |
| 32 | Blackmon, Julian (S) | 6-0 | 202 | 4 | Utah | 14/11/1/2 | D3 20 | D3 IND 20 | Second-round rookie with size eyes starter spot after Stephon Gilmore trade. |
| 29 | Brents, JuJu (CB) | 6-3 | 198 | R | Kansas State | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 IND 23 | Fourth-year pro had career-high numbers, but needs to be better in pass defense. |
| 38 | Brown, Tony (CB) | 6-0 | 199 | 5 | Alabama | 16/0/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA LAC 18 | Used mostly on special teams in 16 games with Colts; his fifth team since 2018. |
| 20 | Cross, Nick (S) | 6-0 | 212 | 2 | Maryland | 16/2/0/1 | D3 22 | D3 IND 22 | Expected to push for starter snaps as rookie; relegated to backup role in 16 games. |
| 33 | Flowers, Dallis (CB) | 6-1 | 196 | 2 | Pittsburg State | 13/1/0/4 | CFA 22 | CFA IND 22 | Undrafted rookie's 13 games included snaps on defense and as capable returner. |
| 40 | Jones, Jaylon (CB) | 6-2 | 203 | R | Texas A&M | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 IND 23 | Another corner with size; sixth-round rookie joins crowded competition for snaps. |
| 23 | *Moore II, Kenny (CB) | 5-9 | 190 | 7 | Valdosta State | 12/12/0/4 | W,NE 17 | CFA NE 17 | Standout slot corner missed five games with ankle injury; entering contract year. |
| 34 | *Rodgers Sr., Isaiah (CB) | 5-10 | 176 | 4 | Massachusetts | 15/9/0/0 | D6 20 | D6 IND 20 | Drafted by Colts as returner in 2020; improved into nine-game starter last year. |
| 30 | Rush, Darius (CB) | 6-2 | 198 | R | South Carolina | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 IND 23 | Sticking with adding corners with size; fifth-round rookie in the mix for snaps. |
| 31 | Scott, Daniel (S) | 6-1 | 208 | R | California | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 IND 23 | Athletic rookie drafted in fifth round might have to earn spot on special teams. |
| 25 | Thomas II, Rodney (S) | 6-1 | 196 | 2 | Yale | 17/10 | D6 22 | D6 IND 22 | Seventh-round rookie surprised with 52 tackles, four INTs as 10-game starter. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Gay, Matt (K) | 6-0 | 232 | 5 | Utah | 17/0 | UFA,LAR 23 | D5 TB 19 | Four-year, $22.5 million contract was largest for free-agent kicker in NFL history. |
| 46 | Rhodes, Luke (LS) | 6-2 | 238 | 6 | William & Mary | 17/0 | FA 16 | CFA TB 16 | The 2021 Pro-Bowl standout enters contract year looking for multi-year extension. |
| 8 | *Sanchez, Rigoberto (P) | 6-0 | 195 | 6 | Hawaii | 0/0/0/0 | CFA 17 | CFA IND 17 | Missed 2022 due to Achilles injury; enters contract year hoping to earn new deal. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Cody Chrest (Sam Houston State), Ethan Fernea (1, UCLA), Johnny King (Southeast Missouri), Xavier Scott (Maine), Vyncint Smith (4, Limestone), Braxton Westfield (Carson-Newman); T Jordan Murray (1, North Texas); Gs Emil Ekiyor (Alabama), Arlington Hambright (2 Colorado), Harris LaChance (Brigham Young); RBs Darius Hagans (Virginia State), Titus Swen (Wyoming); DEs McTelvin Agim (3, Arkansas), Guy Thomas (Colorado); DTs Caleb Sampson (Kansas); LBs Liam Anderson (Holy Cross), Donavan Mutin (Houston), Segun Olubi (1, San Diego State); CBs Cole Coleman (Elon), Tyler Richardson (Tiffin), Kevin Toliver II (3, Louisiana State); Ss Henry Black (3, Baylor), Trevor Denbow (2, Southern Methodist); Ss Aaron Maddox (Campbell), Marcel Dabo (1, None); K Lucas Havrisik (1, Arizona)

Smith struggled at times. Rookie Bernhard Raimann had to learn the hard way at left tackle. He needed blocking help too often because when left alone, Raimann often got beat or was flagged. Will Fries eventually settled into right guard as an acceptable option, but nobody on this line had a strong 2022. The Colts drafted tackle Blake Freeland in the fourth round and tackle Jake Witt in the seventh to hopefully push the starters.

**RATING: 7**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Any line with tackles DeForest Buckner and Grover Stewart in the middle is an excellent place to start. Both continue to excel as cornerstones. Promising third-year edge rusher Kwity Paye has six sacks and 76 tackles and continues to show why he was a first-round pick. But the free-agent departure of Yannick Ngakoue and his team-best 9.5 sacks means there's an end spot that needs solving. Free-agent addition Samson Ebukam has shown flashes as a reserve with 24 sacks in six seasons. Tyquan Lewis, a former second-round pick who has battled injuries with 32 games missed in five years, was brought back for another year because he can play any of the line positions.

**RATING: 7.5**

## LINEBACKERS

A healthy Leonard restores the defense's biggest playmaker, a tackle machine who forces fumbles, sacks the quarterback and comes up with interceptions. Having him for only one start last year was the biggest hole in this defense. Zaire Franklin has settled into the middle after a career year in tackles. Former special-teams ace E.J. Speed will get another chance to prove he's ready to be an outside regular. But the Colts are thin with reserves who have played mostly special teams. That underscores the importance of Leonard being back to his Pro-Bowl self.

**RATING: 7**

## SECONDARY

Not having Stephon Gilmore will require Bradley to do some tinkering because the 2019 NFL Defensive Player of the Year was as advertised, a shutdown corner who can still capably cover the league's best receivers. Ballard honored Gilmore's trade request to give the defender a chance to excel on a stronger team in Dallas. He had only one year left on his contract. Standout slot corner Kenny Moore II has been one of the best at that spot, but he was injured for five games last year. Isaiah Rodgers will look to claim a starting spot, but the Colts drafted JuJu Brents in the second round. The hope is that Brents can make an immediate impact.

**RATING: 6**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The offseason signing of kicker Matt Gay to a four-year, $22.5 million contract provides stability at a position of uncertainty since Adam Vinatieri retired after 2019. Gay has a strong leg, making seven of nine kicks from 50-plus yards last season, and is tested under pressure, having won a Super Bowl ring with the Rams. Long snapper Luke Rhodes, like Gay, has been to a Pro Bowl. Punter Rigoberto Sanchez missed last season with a torn Achilles, but was steady in five previous years. The biggest change is the loss of special-teams coach Bubba Ventrone, who was hired by Cleveland for the same job as well as assistant head coach. The Colts thrived under Ventrone with blocked punts and excellent returns. Brian Mason, a Zionsville, Ind., native, was hired from Notre Dame as Vetrone's replacement.

**RATING: 8**

## INTANGIBLES

Although the coaching staff didn't undergo a complete overhaul, players have to adjust to a new direction. If nothing else, Steichen has to sift through what remains to determine what building blocks need upgrading. It's unfair to expect Richardson to be an overnight sensation. The process has to be methodical and growing pains are the norm.

**RATING: Minus-1**

— Phillip B. Wilson

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A healthy Jonathan Taylor returning to 2021 form as an NFL rushing leader would be key to an offense that needs to establish the run to open up the passing game. Taylor missed six games due to an ankle injury last season.

2. New head coach Shane Steichen worked wonders with Philadelphia quarterback Jalen Hurts in utilizing the passer as a running threat. Rookie quarterback Anthony Richardson has that running capability. When he gets his chance, expect plays devised to feature that mobility.

3. A pass rush tied for 10th with 44 sacks is without Yannick Ngakoue, who had a team-high 9.5 but wasn't re-signed. Free agent Samson Ebukam has 23.5 sacks in six seasons, but is unlikely to fill the void at end, which means others must step up.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 4-12-1**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | at Houston (OT) | 20-20 |
| Sept. 18 | at Jacksonville | 0-24 |
| Sept. 25 | KANSAS CITY | 20-17 |
| Oct. 2 | TENNESSEE | 17-24 |
| Oct. 6 | at Denver (OT) | 12-9 |
| Oct. 16 | JACKSONVILLE | 34-27 |
| Oct. 23 | at Tennessee | 10-19 |
| Oct. 30 | WASHINGTON | 16-17 |
| Nov. 6 | at New England | 3-26 |
| Nov. 13 | at Las Vegas | 25-20 |
| Nov. 20 | PHILADELPHIA | 16-17 |
| Nov. 28 | PITTSBURGH | 17-24 |
| Dec. 4 | at Dallas | 19-54 |
| Dec. 17 | at Minnesota (OT) | 36-39 |
| Dec. 26 | L.A. CHARGERS | 3-20 |
| Jan. 1 | at N.Y. Giants | 10-38 |
| Jan. 8 | HOUSTON | 31-32 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Eastern**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 12 | at Buffalo (Sat) | 1:00 |
| Aug. 19 | CHICAGO (Sat) | 7:00 |
| Aug. 24 | at Philadelphia (Thu) | 8:00 |
| Sept. 10 | JACKSONVILLE | 1:00 |
| Sept. 17 | at Houston | 1:00 |
| Sept. 24 | at Baltimore | 1:00 |
| Oct. 1 | L.A. RAMS | 1:00 |
| Oct. 8 | TENNESSEE | 1:00 |
| Oct. 15 | at Jacksonville | 1:00 |
| Oct. 22 | CLEVELAND | 1:00 |
| Oct. 29 | NEW ORLEANS | 1:00 |
| Nov. 5 | at Carolina | 4:05 |
| Nov. 12 | New England (Germany) | 9:30 |
| | BYE | |
| Nov. 26 | TAMPA BAY | 1:00 |
| Dec. 3 | at Tennessee | 1:00 |
| Dec. 10 | at Cincinnati | 1:00 |
| Dec. 16/17 | PITTSBURGH | TBD |
| Dec. 24 | at Atlanta | 1:00 |
| Dec. 31 | LAS VEGAS | 1:00 |
| TBD | HOUSTON | TBD |

# JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

## Pederson Brings Stability to Jaguars Chaos

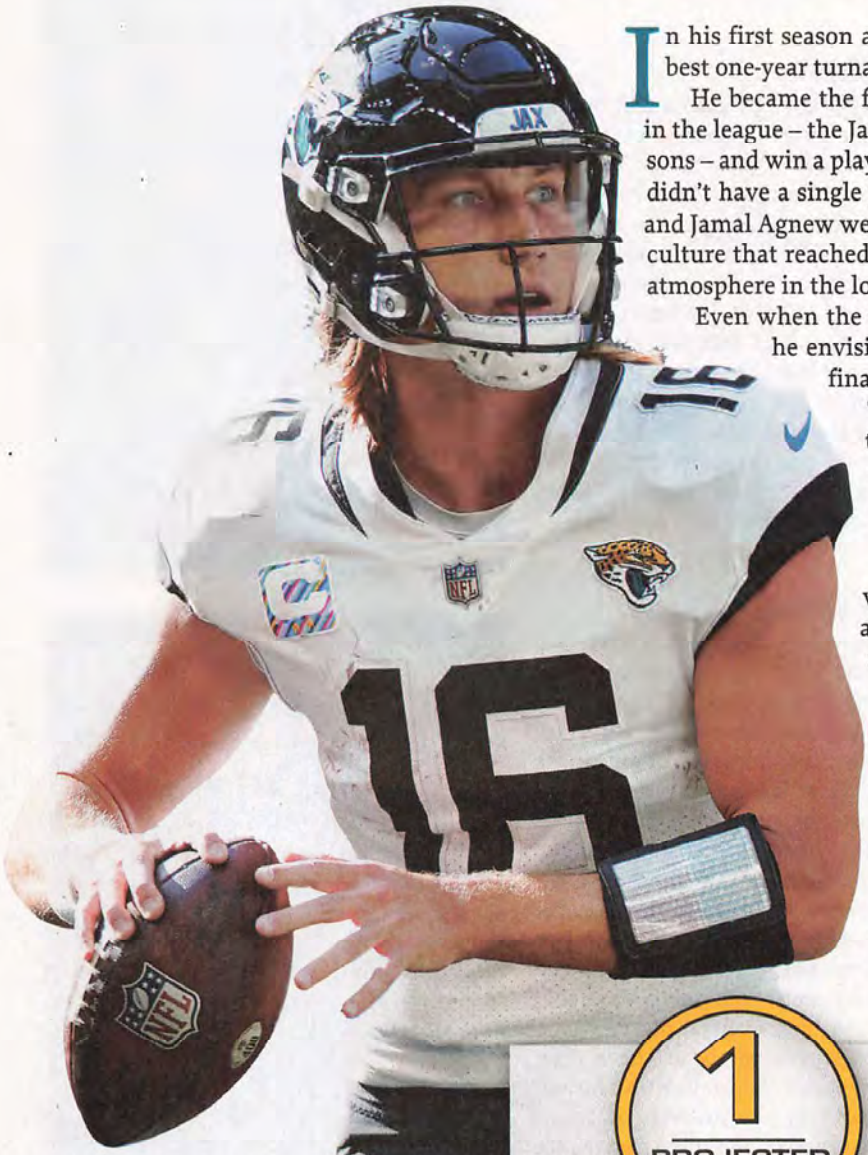
In his first season as the Jaguars head coach, Doug Pederson pulled off the best one-year turnaround in NFL history.

He became the first coach to take over a team that had the worst record in the league – the Jaguars actually had the worst record the previous two seasons – and win a playoff game in his first year. And he did it with a roster that didn't have a single player voted to the Pro Bowl although Trevor Lawrence and Jamal Agnew were injury replacements. He also turned around the losing culture that reached rock bottom under Urban Meyer and created a positive atmosphere in the locker room.

Even when the team started out 3-7 last year, Pederson told the players he envisioned them playing for the division title in their season finale against Tennessee.

That is exactly what happened as the Jaguars went 6-1 in their last seven games and beat the Titans in the season finale to make the playoffs before beating the Chargers in their first playoff game. They then lost to the Chiefs for the second time in the divisional round.

Pederson also showed he is a quarterback whisperer with his development of Lawrence and now the Jaguars are a young, trendy team that appears to be poised to make a run the next several years. The oddsmakers have their over/under at 9.5 wins and they are favored to win the AFC South again. Their next goal is to go deep in the playoffs.



**Trevor Lawrence**
Photo by Joe Robbins

**1**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 10-9

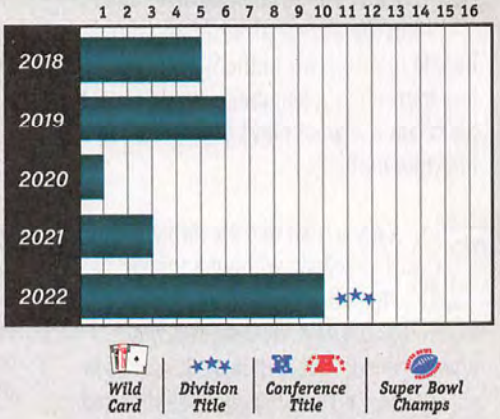
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 4-2

**STADIUM:** TIAA Bank Field Drive

**CAPACITY:** 67,862

**SURFACE:** Grass

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

ONE TIAA BANK FIELD DRIVE
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202
(904) 633-6000
WWW.JAGUARS.COM

**TRAINING CAMP:** Episcopal High School, Jacksonville, FL
**HEAD COACH:** Doug Pederson
- 2nd season with Jaguars
- 10-9 overall; 1-1 postseason
- 7th season as NFL head coach
- 56-48-1 overall; 5-3 postseason

**OWNER:** Shad Khan
**PRESIDENT:** Mark Lamping
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Trent Baalke
**ASSISTANT GM:** Ethan Waugh
**DIR. COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Michael Davis
**DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:** DeJuan Polk
**DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:** Regis Eller

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Press Taylor | Offensive coordinator | 11 | 2 |
| Mike McCoy | Quarterbacks | 21 | 2 |
| Andrew Breiner | Asst. quarterbacks | 3 | 2 |
| Nick Holz | Passing game coord. | 11 | 1 |
| Phil Rauscher | Offensive line | 9 | 2 |
| Todd Washington | Assistant line | 10 | 3 |
| Chad Hall | Receivers | 7 | 1 |
| Bernie Parmalee | Running backs | 15 | 3 |
| Tyler Tettleton | Asst. running backs | 4 | 2 |
| Richard Angulo | Tight ends | 10 | 2 |
| Nick Williams | Off. quality control | 5 | 2 |
| Greg Austin | Off. quality control | 4 | 1 |
| Mike Caldwell | Defensive coordinator | 16 | 2 |
| Bob Sutton | Sr. defensive assistant | 24 | 3 |
| Brentson Buckner | Defensive line | 11 | 2 |
| Rory Segrest | Assistant line | 9 | 2 |
| Bill Shuey | Outside linebackers | 17 | 2 |
| Tony Gilbert | Inside linebackers | 4 | 4 |
| Deshea Townsend | *Cornerbacks | 10 | 2 |
| Cody Grimm | Safeties | 5 | 2 |
| Patrick Reilly | Def. quality control | 3 | 3 |
| Sean Cullina | Def. quality control | 1 | 1 |
| Tee Mitchell | Def. quality control | 2 | 2 |
| Heath Farwell | Special teams coordinator | 8 | 2 |
| Luke Thompson | Asst. special teams | 4 | 2 |
| Cedric Scott | Director S&C | 12 | 12 |
| Brandon Ireland | Assistant S&C | 7 | 3 |
| Adam Potts | Assistant S&C | 5 | 3 |
| Kevin Maxen | Assistant S&C | 3 | 3 |

*Defensive pass game coordinator

## JAGUARS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/1 | Travon Walker | LB | Starter |
| 2021 | 1/1 | Trevor Lawrence | QB | Starter |
| 2020 | 1/9 | C.J. Henderson | CB | Panthers |
| 2019 | 1/7 | Josh Allen | DE | Starter |
| 2018 | 1/29 | Taven Bryan | DT | Browns |

## COACHING

Pederson, who won a Super Bowl in Philadelphia in his second year, but was fired after going 4-11-1 in his fifth year in 2020, turned out to be a perfect fit in Jacksonville.

He changed the losing atmosphere, won the trust of the players and also showed confidence in them by having a gambling style in his play-calling. Along with offensive coordinator Press Taylor and quarterbacks coach Mike McCoy, he mentored Lawrence, who took a major step forward in his second year.

Mike Caldwell and Heath Farwell return as the defensive coordinator and special-teams coach, respectively, and Caldwell, in his first stint as a defensive coordinator, faces the challenge of improving a defense that was 24th in yardage allowed last year.

**RATING: 8**

## QUARTERBACKS

After struggling in his rookie season under Meyer, Lawrence showed he may be on the verge of becoming an elite player in his second year as he overcame a slow start to become the face of the franchise. The Jaguars ranked 10th in passing yardage last year and may well move up the standings in Lawrence's third year. Lawrence may live up to the hype of being the first player picked in 2021.

The Jaguars signed C.J. Beathard to a two-year extension to remain the backup, but Lawrence has stayed healthy, so he threw only 13 passes the last two years. They also signed Nathan Rourke from the CFL to be a camp arm.

**RATING: 7.5**

## RUNNING BACKS

Travis Etienne missed his rookie season with a Lisfranc injury suffered in preseason, but he got off to such a good start in his second season that they traded James Robinson and Etienne went on to rush for 1,125 yards. But he has to secure the ball better as he fumbled five times and lost three. They lacked depth at the position so they drafted Tank Bigsby and signed veteran free agent D'Ernest Johnson so they can spell Etienne at times.

**RATING 7**

## RECEIVERS

The Jaguars upgraded their receiving corps by trading for Calvin Ridley last year when he was serving a gambling suspension and then drafted tight end Brenton Strange in the second round.

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

One of the best values from the 2020 NFL Draft has been DT **DaVon Hamilton.** A heart condition caused him to slide during the draft process and Jacksonville wisely invested a third-round pick in the versatile defensive lineman. He incurred more adversity as a rookie with injuries stunting his growth. Since then, Hamilton has stepped up and taken hold of a starting job, while demonstrating the ability to apply pressure on the quarterback. Look for 2023 to be the year Hamilton earns his first invite to the Pro Bowl. ... Another player looking to take his game from good to great is OLB **Travon Walker.** The 2022 No. 1 overall pick certainly showed flashes of warranting that honor, but he also endured his share of growing pains. Making the transition to standing up outside was admittedly something he needed to become more comfortable with but as the season wore on, there were signs of Walker growing into expectations. He must become a consistent week-to-week force, in order for the Jacksonville defense to maximize its capabilities. ... In the third level of the defense, CB **Tyson Campbell** is on the brink of stardom. Don't be surprised if you begin to hear his name mentioned among the national media as one of the top lockdown corners in the league.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

JOSH ALLEN

Allen was selected by the Jaguars with the seventh pick in the 2019 draft and got off to a fast start with 10.5 sacks as a rookie as he became the first Jaguars rookie to make the Pro Bowl. In the last three seasons, he has yet to match the promise of his first season. He missed half of his second year with injuries and had 7.5 and seven sacks the past two years. So the Jaguars decided not to give him a long-term deal and picked up his fifth-year option at $11.5 million this year. Unless he has a big season, the Jaguars will likely let him leave as a free agent next March.

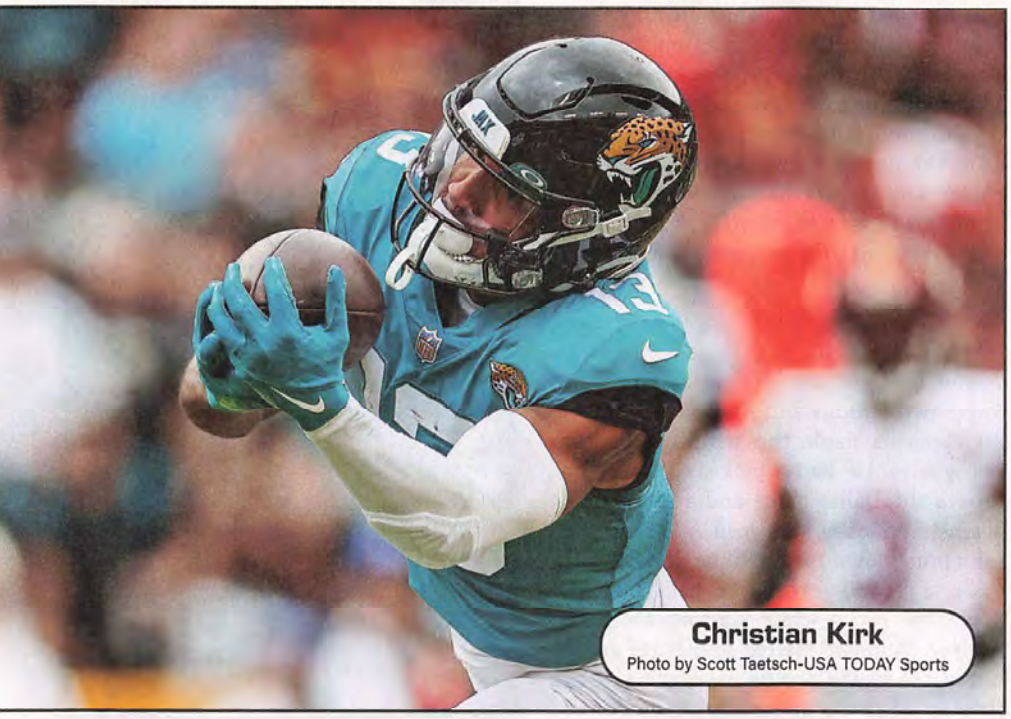
# JAGUARS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 39 | Agnew, Jamal (RS) | 5-10 | 190 | 7 | San Diego | 15/0/0/2 | UFA,DET 21 | D5 DET 17 | He adds depth at receiver besides being an explosive kick returner. |
| **17** | **Engram, Evan (TE)** | **6-3** | **240** | **7** | **Mississippi** | **17/14** | **UFA,NYG 21** | **D1 NYG 17** | **Left Giants as a free agent and had his best season with the Jaguars.** |
| 89 | Farrell, Luke (TE) | 6-5 | 250 | 3 | Ohio State | 17/0 | D5 21 | D5 JAX 21 | Played most special teams in his first two years with the Jaguars. |
| 15 | Jones, Tim | 6-1 | 200 | 2 | Southern Mississippi | 17/1 | FA 22 | CFA JAX 21 | Had three catches last year after spending first year on practice squad. |
| **7** | **Jones, Zay** | **6-2** | **200** | **7** | **East Carolina** | **16/15/0/1** | **UFA,LV 22** | **D2 BUFF 17** | **Had a career year with 82 catches in his first year with Jaguars.** |
| **13** | **Kirk, Christian** | **5-11** | **200** | **6** | **Texas A&M** | **17/17** | **UFA,ARIZ 22** | **D2 ARIZ 18** | **His $72 million deal turned out to be a bargain as he caught 84 passes.** |
| 14 | Pryor, Kendric | 5-11 | 189 | 2 | Wisconsin | 1/1/3/13 | W, CIN 22 | CFA CIN 22 | Claimed off waivers from Bengals, but inactive all season. |
| **0** | ***Ridley, Calvin** | **6-1** | **190** | **5** | **Alabama** | **0/0/0/0** | **T,ATL 22** | **D1 ATL 18** | **Trading for him last year was like getting a future pick for this season.** |
| 85 | Strange, Brenton (TE) | 6-3 | 247 | R | Penn State | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 JAX 23 | Jaguars may feature him more in passing game than Penn State did. |
| 11 | Washington, Parker | 5-10 | 212 | R | Penn State | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 JAX 23 | Lacks height and good speed, but has good footwork and runs good routes. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 78 | *Bartch, Ben (T) | 6-6 | 315 | 4 | St. John's (Minn.) | 5/5/0/0 | D4 20 | D4 JAX 20 | Suffered a knee injury in fifth game and missed rest of the season. |
| 67 | Brewer, Chandler (T/G) | 6-6 | 320 | 3 | Middle Tennessee | 6/4/1/0 | FA 23 | CFA LAR 19 | Signed by Jaguars in April after starting four games for Rams last year. |
| **79** | **Fortner, Luke (C)** | **6-6** | **307** | **2** | **Kentucky** | **17/17** | **D3 22** | **D3 JAX 22** | **Started every game as a rookie and seems set at center for next decade.** |
| 73 | Hance, Blake (G) | 6-5 | 310 | 3 | Northwestern | 15/0/0/0 | W,SF 22 | CFA BUFF 19 | Played in nine games with Jaguars last year, but didn't have a start. |
| **76** | **Harrison, Anton (RT)** | **6-5** | **315** | **R** | **Oklahoma** | **0/0** | **D1 23** | **D1 JAX 23** | **Penciled in at right tackle and may be only draft pick to start opening day.** |
| 75 | Hodges, Cooper (G) | 6-3 | 311 | R | Appalachian State | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 JAX 23 | He started 51 games at Appalachian State and allowed only one sack. |
| **72** | **Little, Walker (LT)** | **6-7** | **325** | **3** | **Stanford** | **17/3** | **D2 21** | **D2 JAX 21** | **Will start season at LT with Robinson serving a PED suspension.** |
| 74 | *Robinson, Cam (T) | 6-6 | 335 | 7 | Alabama | 14/14/0/1 | D2 17 | D2 JAX 17 | His future is uncertain in wake of his PED suspension. |
| **68** | **Scherff, Brandon (RG)** | **6-5** | **315** | **9** | **Iowa** | **17/17** | **UFA,WSH 22** | **D1 WSH 15** | **Started every game, but gave up six sacks while battling injury issues.** |
| **69** | **Shatley, Tyler (LG)** | **6-3** | **305** | **10** | **Clemson** | **17/12** | **CFA 14** | **CFA JAX 14** | **Allowed one sack while starting last 12 games at left guard.** |
| 70 | Van Lanen, Cole (G) | 6-4 | 312 | 2 | Wisconsin | 16/0/0/1 | T,GB 22 | D6 GB 21 | Played in 16 games, but had only 18 snaps and didn't have a start. |
| 77 | *Wells, Josh (T) | 6-6 | 310 | 10 | James Madison | 11/7/0/0 | UFA,TB 23 | CFA JAX 14 | Former Jaguar returned to team as a free agent to be a swing tackle. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Bigsby, Tank | 6-0 | 213 | R | Auburn | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 JAX 23 | A good runner who needs to work on his pass-blocking skills to get playing time. |
| 24 | Conner, Snoop | 5-10 | 222 | 2 | Mississippi | 8/0/2/7 | D5 22 | D5 JAX 22 | Will fight for a roster spot after having only 12 carries in eight games as a rookie. |
| **1** | **Etienne Jr., Travis** | **5-10** | **215** | **3** | **Clemson** | **17/12** | **D1 21** | **D1 JAX 21** | **Averaged 5.1 yards a carry in 17 games with 12 starts.** |
| 22 | Hasty, Jamycal (RS) | 5-8 | 205 | 4 | Baylor | 17/0 | W, SF 22 | CFA SF 20 | Hopes to have bigger impact this year after gaining only 194 yards last year. |
| 25 | Johnson, D'Ernest | 5-10 | 208 | 5 | South Florida | 15/0/0/2 | UFA,CLV 23 | FA CLV 19 | Started only two games in four years in Cleveland and targeted for backup role. |
| 43 | Parish, Derek (FB) | 6-1 | 241 | R | Houston | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 JAX 23 | Played both ways in college, but Jaguars will try him at fullback. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Beathard, C.J. | 6-2 | 215 | 7 | Iowa | 4/0/13/0 | D3 17 | D3 SF 17 | He looked good enough in practice to earn a contract extension as the backup. |
| **16** | **Lawrence, Trevor** | **6-6** | **220** | **3** | **Clemson** | **17/17** | **D1 21** | **D1 JAX 21** | **He became a leader in his second year and the Jaguars are now his team.** |
| 18 | Rourke, Nathan | 6-1 | 210 | R | Ohio | 0/0 | FA 23 | FA JAX 23 | Former CFL player will likely spend his first Jaguar season on practice squad. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 98 | Dogbe, Michael (E) | 6-3 | 280 | 4 | Temple | 13/4/0/0 | UFA,ARIZ 23 | D7 ARIZ 19 | Will be part of the rotation, but started only five games in four years in Arizona. |
| **94** | **Fatukasi, Folorunso (E)** | **6-4** | **318** | **6** | **Connecticut** | **14/13/0/3** | **UFA,NYJ 22** | **D6 NYJ 18** | **A disappointing first season for Jaguars with 13 solo tackles and 1.5 sacks.** |
| 96 | Gotsis, Adam (E) | 6-4 | 290 | 8 | Georgia Tech | 15/1/0/2 | FA 22 | D2 DEN 16 | Got a two-year extension after playing 15 games in the rotation with one start. |
| **52** | **Hamilton, Davon (NT)** | **6-4** | **335** | **4** | **Ohio State** | **17/14** | **D3 20** | **D3 JAX 20** | **Started 14 games at nose tackle in his third season to earn a three-year extension.** |
| 93 | Lacy, Tyler (E) | 6-4 | 285 | R | Oklahoma State | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 JAX 23 | He had 11.5 sacks in 44 games at Oklahoma State and will add depth. |
| 99 | Ledbetter, Jeremiah (T) | 6-3 | 299 | 2 | Arkansas | 1/0/0/2 | FA 22 | D6 DET 17 | Signed in November to practice squad and played in one game. |
| 90 | Mondeaux, Henry (E) | 6-5 | 280 | 4 | Oregon | 11/5/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA NORL 18 | Looking for a spot in rotation in his fourth season; first with Jaguars. |
| **95** | **Robertson-Harris, Roy (E)** | **6-5** | **290** | **7** | **Texas-El Paso** | **17/17** | **UFA,CHI 21** | **CFA CHI 16** | **Dependable veteran solid against the run with 45 tackles.** |
| 59 | Vohasek, Raymond (T) | 6-2 | 311 | R | North Carolina | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 JAX 23 | In four seasons at North Carolina, he had 5.5 sacks and 17 tackles for loss. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 56 | Abdullah, Yasir (O) | 6-1 | 234 | R | Louisville | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 JAX 23 | Undersized, but had 19.5 sacks in his last two years at Louisville. |
| **41** | **Allen, Josh (O)** | **6-5** | **255** | **4** | **Kentucky** | **17/17** | **D1 19** | **D1 JAX 19** | **He needs a breakout year if Jaguars are to be higher than 26th in sacks.** |
| 45 | Chaisson, K'Lavon (O/DE) | 6-3 | 245 | 3 | Louisiana State | 9/0/0/1 | D1 20 | D1 JAX 20 | Since they didn't pick up his fifth-year option, he will be a free agent next year. |
| 47 | Dixon, De'Shaan (O) | 6-5 | 247 | 2 | Norfolk State | 3/0/0/14 | CFA 22 | CFA JAX 22 | Undrafted free agent played in three games as a rookie. |
| 57 | Johnson, Caleb (I) | 6-2 | 220 | 2 | Houston Baptist | 17/0/0/0 | W,CHI 22 | CFA CHI 21 | Played in all 17 games on special teams. |
| **33** | **Lloyd, Devin (I)** | **6-3** | **235** | **R** | **Utah** | **17/15** | **D1 22** | **D1 JAX 22** | **Needs to be more consistent after being benched for two games last year.** |
| 51 | Miller, Ventrell (I) | 6-0 | 221 | R | Florida | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 JAX 23 | Rookie will add depth as likely fourth inside linebacker. |
| 48 | Muma, Chad (I) | 6-3 | 239 | R | Wyoming | 16/2/0/1 | D3 22 | D3 JAX 22 | Played in 16 games with two starts when Lloyd was benched. |
| **23** | **Oluokun, Foyesade (I)** | **6-2** | **230** | **5** | **Yale** | **17/17** | **UFA,ATL 22** | **D6 ATL 18** | **Started all 17 games and led league in tackles second year in a row.** |
| 50 | Quarterman, Shaquille (I) | 6-0 | 240 | 3 | Miami | 17/0 | D4 20 | D4 JAX 20 | Played 17 games mostly on special teams with no starts. |
| 92 | *Smith, Jordan (O) | 6-6 | 250 | 3 | Alabama-Birmingham | 0/0/0/0 | D4 21 | D4 JAX 21 | Missed last season with a knee injury after playing two games as a rookie. |
| **44** | **Walker, Travon (O)** | **6-5** | **272** | **R** | **Georgia** | **16/15/0/1** | **D1 22** | **D1 JAX 22** | **First pick in the draft last year, but didn't make a big impact.** |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 36 | Braswell, Christian (CB) | 5-10 | 181 | R | Rutgers | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 JAX 23 | Had three picks and 14 passes defended in lone year at Rutgers. |
| 30 | Brown, Montaric (CB) | 6-0 | 190 | R | Arkansas | 8/1/0/9 | D7 22 | D7 JAX 22 | Played in eight games; mostly special teams with one start. |
| 29 | Campbell, Tevaughn (CB) | 6-0 | 200 | 3 | Regina, Can. | 5/0/0/0 | FA 23 | FA NYJ 19 | Much-traveled veteran on his seventh team, including three in CFL. |
| **32** | **Campbell, Tyson (CB)** | **6-1** | **195** | **2** | **Georgia** | **17/17** | **D2 21** | **D2 JAX 21** | **He is likely to develop into one of the league's better corners.** |
| **5** | **Cisco, Andre (S)** | **6-0** | **210** | **2** | **Syracuse** | **15/15/0/2** | **D3 21** | **D3 JAX 21** | **Started 16 games in his second season and likely to be a fixture in secondary.** |
| 6 | Claybrooks, Chris (CB/RS) | 5-9 | 180 | 3 | Memphis | 17/0 | D7 20 | D7 JAX 19 | His off-the-field legal issues have put his future in jeopardy. |
| 40 | Hallett II, Erick (S) | 5-11 | 190 | R | Pittsburgh | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 JAX 23 | Had eight interceptions and 32 defensed passes in four years at Pitt. |
| 37 | Herndon, Tre (CB) | 5-11 | 190 | 5 | Vanderbilt | 15/1/0/2 | CFA 18 | CFA JAX 18 | He is vulnerable as the nickel back, but will return on a one-year deal. |
| **2** | **Jenkins, Rayshawn (S)** | **6-1** | **200** | **6** | **Miami** | **17/17** | **UFA,LAC 21** | **D4 LAC 17** | **Good tackler who makes big plays, but is sometimes burned in passing game.** |
| 26 | Johnson, Antonio (S) | 6-3 | 195 | R | Texas A&M | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 JAX 23 | Was rated to go in first two rounds despite no picks at Texas A&M. |
| 34 | Junior, Gregory (CB) | 6-0 | 190 | R | Ouachita Baptist | 1/0/0/1 | FA 22 | D6 JAX 22 | Spent most of rookie season on practice squad and played in one game. |
| 20 | Thomas, Daniel (CB) | 5-10 | 215 | 3 | Auburn | 15/0/0/2 | D5 20 | D5 JAX 20 | Played in 15 games in third season, mostly on special teams. |
| 35 | Thompson, Deionte (S) | 6-1 | 195 | 4 | Alabama | 3/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D5 ARIZ 19 | Signed to practice squad after being waived by Cardinals after third game. |
| **31** | **Williams, Darious (CB)** | **5-9** | **187** | **5** | **Alabama-Birmingham** | **17/12** | **UFA,LAR 22** | **CFA BLT 18** | **His play improved when he moved inside, but didn't have an interception.** |
| 42 | Wingard, Andrew (S) | 6-0 | 200 | 4 | Wyoming | 17/3 | CFA 19 | CFA JAX 19 | Got a three-year deal even though he lost starting job to Cisco. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Cooke, Logan (P) | 6-5 | 230 | 6 | Mississippi State | 17/0 | D7 18 | D7 JAX 18 | His career 43.2 net punting average is best since 1976 for punters with 250 punts. |
| 46 | Matiscik, Ross (LS) | 6-0 | 240 | 4 | Baylor | 17/0 | CFA 20 | CFA JAX 20 | Has most job security on the team after signing a five-year deal. |
| 10 | Patterson, Riley (K) | 6-0 | 190 | 3 | Memphis | 17/0 | W, DET 22 | CFA MINN 21 | Was reliable all season after being claimed off waivers at end of camp. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (I indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Kevin Austin Jr. (I, Notre Dame), Elijah Cooks (San Jose State), Jaray Jenkins (Louisiana State), Oliver Martin (Nebraska), Jaylon Moore (I, Tennessee-Martin), Seth Williams (I, Auburn); TEs Gerrit Prince (I, Alabama-Birmingham), Leonard Taylor (Cincinnati); T Coy Cronk (I, Iowa); C Darryl Williams (I, Mississippi State); OL Samuel Jackson (Central Florida); RB Qadree Ollison (4, Pittsburgh); DTs Jayson Ademilola (Notre Dame), Nick Thurman (2, Houston); LBs DJ Coleman (Missouri), Dequan Jackson (Colorado State), Matthew Jackson (Eastern Kentucky); CBs Kaleb Hayes (Brigham Young), Divaad Wilson (Central Florida); S Ayo Oyelola (I, None); K James McCourt (I, Illinois)



Christian Kirk
Photo by Scott Taetsch-USA TODAY Sports

Ridley, who played only five games in 2020 when he was dealing with mental health issues and a misdiagnosed broken foot, said he is healthy mentally and physically and ready for a rebound. He will combine with Christian Kirk and Zay Jones, who both had career years last season, to give them a good three-wide receiver set. And Strange will back up Evan Engram and also play in two-tight end sets. With five top receivers, they can play a variety of groups, including two-wide receiver and two-tight end sets. Pederson likes to get the tight ends involved in his offense. They also need to avoid drops after being in a three-way tie for second last year with 29.

**RATING 7.5**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Drafting Anton Harrison on the first round was a logical decision because Jawaan Taylor left in free agency and Cam Robinson is suspended for the start of the season after testing positive for PEDs.

Walker Little, who started six regular-season games his first two years, figures to start at left tackle replacing Robinson, while Harrison will start at right tackle replacing Taylor. Former Jaguar Josh Wells, who returned as a free agent, will be the swing tackle. Tyler Shatley stepped in last year at left guard the last 12 games after Ben Bartsch went out with a knee injury and they will vie for the left-guard spot. Veteran Brandon Scherff and Luke Fortner, who started as a rookie, are set at right guard and center, respectively.

**RATING: 6.5**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The line is led by nose tackle Davon Hamilton, who played only 53 percent of the plays in their rotation system, but played

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

**KEY ADDITION:**
**WR Calvin Ridley**
Now that Ridley has served his gambling suspension and overcome the health issues that limited him to five games in 2021, he seems at the top of his game and is ready to be the deep threat in their offense.

**OTHER ADDITIONS**
DL Michael Dogbe, RB D'Ernest Johnson, DT Henry Mondeaux, T Josh Wells

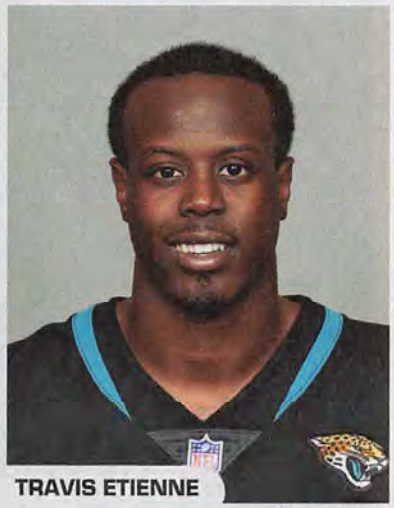
**KEY LOSS:**
**RT Jawaan Taylor (17/17)***
A year ago, Taylor was facing a challenge from Walker Little, but he played well enough to get an $80 million free-agent deal from the Chiefs.

**OTHER LOSSES:**
TE Dan Arnold (17/0), CB Shaquill Griffin (5/5), **WR Marvin Jones Jr. (16/10)**, DE Arden Key (17/3), **TE Chris Manhertz (17/11)**, DT Corey Peters (12/3), DE Dawuane Smoot (15/0)*
**Total games played/started lost: 116/49**

**STARTERS RETURNING**
19: 8 offense, 11 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS



TRAVIS ETIENNE

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Trevor Lawrence | 584 | 387 | 4113 | 25 | 8 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Travis Etienne | 220 | 1125 | 5.1 | 5 |
| James Robinson | 81 | 340 | 4.2 | 3 |
| Trevor Lawrence | 62 | 291 | 4.7 | 5 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Christian Kirk | 84 | 1108 | 13.2 | 8 |
| Zay Jones | 82 | 823 | 10 | 5 |
| Evan Engram | 73 | 766 | 10.5 | 4 |
| Marvin Jones | 46 | 529 | 11.5 | 3 |

**Kicking:** Patterson 36/37 XPs, 30/35 FGs, 126 points
**Tackles:** Oluokun 184, Lloyd 115, Jenkins 112
**Sacks:** Allen 7, Smoot 5, Key 4.5
**INTs:** Jenkins 3, Cisco 3, Campbell 3, Lloyd 3

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 357.4 | 10 |
| Passing Offense | 232.9 | 10 |
| Rushing Offense | 124.5 | 14 |
| Points | 23.8 | 10 |
| Sacked | 28 | 5 |
| 3rd Down % | 41.9 | 9 |
| **Defense** | | |
| Total Defense | 353.3 | 24 |
| Passing Defense | 238.5 | 28 |
| Rushing Defense | 114.8 | 12 |
| Points Allowed | 20.6 | 12 |
| INTs | 14 | T-12 |
| Sacks | 35 | T-25 |
| Turnover Diff. | +5 | T-7 |

well enough to get a three-year, $34.5 million extension. Roy Robertson-Harris and Folorunso Fatukasi return as the starting ends. They were solid against the run as they ranked 12th in rush defense, but the three of them combined for only seven sacks.

Although Corey Peters retired after playing for 12 years and Dawuane Smoot became a free agent after suffering a torn Achilles late in the season, they re-signed Adam Gotsis and signed veterans Michael Dogbe from Arizona and Henry Mondeaux from the Giants. Dogbe started four games and Mondeaux five last year and should play a role in the rotation. They drafted defensive end Tyler Lacy in the fourth round and he will vie for playing time in the rotation.

**RATING: 6.5**

## LINEBACKERS

The Jaguars need more production from their two edge rushers, Josh Allen, the seventh pick in the 2019 draft, and Travon Walker, the first pick last year. Allen led the team with only six sacks last year and Walker had 3.5. The lack of a pass rush was one of the reasons the Jaguars ranked 28th in passing yardage allowed.

On the inside of their 3-4 defense, they feature Foyesade Aluokon, who has led the league in tackles two years in a row, but only 12 of them were for losses, and Devin Lloyd, a first-round pick last year who started 15 games, but struggled at times and was benched for two games in midseason. Another rookie, Chad Muma, replaced him. They drafted inside linebacker Ventrell Miller in the fourth round to give them depth although it was surprising they waited until the fourth round to take a defensive player. The Jaguars need Walker, Lloyd and Muma to all take big steps forward in their second seasons to improve the defense.

**RATING: 7**

## SECONDARY

The Jaguars are set at safety with Rayshawn Jenkins and Andre Cisco returning. Jenkins made the winning plays in two games. He had a pick-six in overtime to win the Dallas game and a sack-fumble against Tennessee that Josh Allen returned for a touchdown to clinch the division title. Cisco, a second-year player, had 70 tackles and three picks while starting 16 games. Andrew Wingard started only three games, but was re-signed because he is valuable as a third safety or playing in the big nickel.

In only his second season, Tyson Campbell emerged as a top corner with three interceptions and 70 tackles. But the other corner slots are in a state of flux and they didn't draft one until the sixth round when they selected Christian Braswell. Darious Williams moved inside at the other corner slot after Shaquill Griffin went on injured reserve and they re-signed nickel back Tre Herndon, who was inconsistent.

**RATING: 7**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Their two kickers are returning. Riley Patterson was claimed off waivers last August and won the kicking job while making 30 of 35 field-goal attempts. Punter Logan Cooke, entering his sixth year in the league, had a 43.8 net average last year. And Jamal Agnew is one of the best returners with an average of 26.0 yards per kickoff return and 8.2 yards per punt return. They are set at long snapper because Ross Matiscik enters his third season after signing a five-year $5.965 extension.

**RATING: 7.5**

## INTANGIBLES

Since 2018, the Jaguars haven't had much stability with two general managers, three head coaches, five play-callers, one executive vice president of football operation and seven quarterbacks. That all changed when owner Shad Khan hired Doug Pederson as the head coach to join general manager Trent Baalke and quarterback Trevor Lawrence for their three key roles. They now appear to have the stability they lacked in recent years.

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Vito Stellino

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. The Jaguars need to make a major improvement on their third-down defense after ranking 29th in stopping teams. The Jaguars have to get opposing teams off the field to prevent long drives. By contrast, they were 10th in converting third downs.

2. Improving their red-zone play on offense and defense is a priority because they ranked 25th in allowing touchdowns in the red zone and 17th in scoring touchdowns.

3. Trevor Lawrence went from 12 touchdown passes as a rookie to 25 last year and increased his passing yardage figures from 3,641 to 4,113. If he makes a similar jump in his third year, the Jaguars should make the playoffs again. It's Lawrence's team now and they will go as far as his arm takes them.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 10-8**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | at Washington | 22-28 |
| Sept. 18 | INDIANAPOLIS | 24-0 |
| Sept. 25 | at L.A. Chargers | 38-10 |
| Oct. 2 | at Philadelphia | 21-29 |
| Oct. 9 | HOUSTON | 6-13 |
| Oct. 16 | at Indianapolis | 27-34 |
| Oct. 23 | N.Y. GIANTS | 17-23 |
| Oct. 30 | DENVER | 17-21 |
| Nov. 6 | LAS VEGAS | 27-20 |
| Nov. 13 | at Kansas City | 17-27 |
| Nov. 27 | BALTIMORE | 28-27 |
| Dec. 4 | at Detroit | 14-40 |
| Dec. 11 | at Tennessee | 36-22 |
| Dec. 18 | DALLAS (OT) | 40-34 |
| Dec. 22 | at N.Y. Jets | 19-3 |
| Jan. 1 | at Houston | 31-3 |
| Jan. 7 | TENNESSEE | 20-16 |
| Jan. 14 | L.A. CHARGERS (Sat) | 31-30 |
| Jan. 21 | at Kansas City (Sat) | 20-27 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Eastern**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | at Dallas | TBDs |
| Aug. 17-21 | at Detroit | TBD |
| Aug. 24-27 | MIAMI | TBD |
| Sept. 10 | at Indianapolis | 1:00 |
| Sept. 17 | KANSAS CITY | 1:00 |
| Sept. 24 | HOUSTON | 1:00 |
| Oct. 1 | Atlanta (London) | 9:30 |
| Oct. 8 | Buffalo (London) | 9:30 |
| Oct. 15 | INDIANAPOLIS | 1:00 |
| Oct. 19 | at New Orleans (Thu) | 8:15 |
| Oct. 29 | at Pittsburgh | 1:00 |
| | BYE | |
| Nov. 12 | SAN FRANCISCO | 1:00 |
| Nov. 19 | TENNESSEE | 1:00 |
| Nov. 26 | at Houston | 1:00 |
| Dec. 4 | CINCINNATI (Mon) | 8:15 |
| Dec. 10 | at Cleveland | 1:00 |
| Dec. 17 | BALTIMORE | 8:20 |
| Dec. 24 | at Tampa Bay | 4:05 |
| Dec. 31 | CAROLINA | 1:00 |
| TBD | at Tennessee | TBD |

# TENNESSEE TITANS

## Tough to Pinpoint Titans Direction

The Titans are at a crossroad heading into 2023, and not even their work in free agency or the draft gives a clear-cut indication of where the franchise is going this season.

Their decisions to hold on to veterans like Ryan Tannehill, Derrick Henry and Kevin Byard, despite high salaries and cap numbers, would indicate that the Titans are not interested in a hard rebuild, despite ending last season on a seven-game losing streak. The drafting of Peter Skoronski in the first round to help shore up a revamped offensive line would also appear to be a now move.

However, there are just as many clues that a rebuild might be in the offing with some of their other decisions this offseason. Their trade up in the draft's second round to take Kentucky quarterback Will Levis is definitely a future move, as was their third-round pick of running back Tyjae Spears to be an apprentice for Henry this year with perhaps an eye on a bigger role later. Also, the Titans failed to address their wide receiver needs sufficiently, something that needs to happen if this team is to contend for anything other than a high draft pick next April.

Tennessee does have a few good things going for it as it hopes to make the rebuild as short as possible. Mike Vrabel is as competitive and as resourceful as any head coach in the NFL when it comes to getting the most out of his roster. Plus, in a division in transition, that still might be enough.

**Jeffery Simmons**
Photo by Joe Robbins

**T3**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 7-10

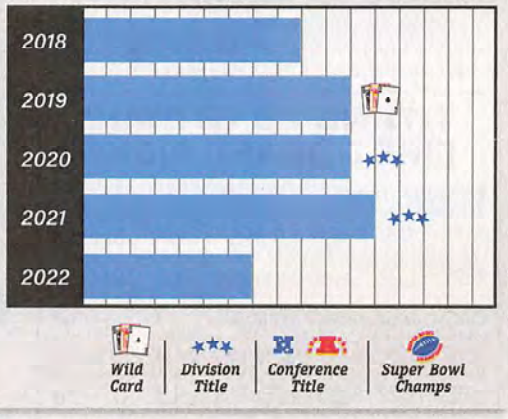
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 3-3

**STADIUM:** Nissan Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 69,143

**SURFACE:** Hellas Matrix Helix Turf

**WINS PER YEAR**



## AT A GLANCE

460 GREAT CIRCLE ROAD
NASHVILLE, TN 37228
(615) 565-4000
WWW.TENNESSEETITANS.COM

**TRAINING CAMP:** Ascension Saint Thomas Sports Park; Nashville, TN
**HEAD COACH:** Mike Vrabel
• 6th season as Titans/NFL head coach
•50-34 overall; 2-3 postseason
**CHAIRMAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Amy Adams Strunk
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Ran Carthon
**ASSISTANT GM:** Chad Brinker
**VP PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Ryan Cowden
**VICE PRESIDENT FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION:** Vin Marino
**DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Jon Salge
**DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:** Brian Gardner

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tim Kelly | Offensive coordinator | 10 | 2 |
| Charles London | @Quarterbacks | 15 | 1 |
| Pat O'Hara | Pass game analyst | 9 | 6 |
| Jason Houghtaling | Offensive line | 3 | 3 |
| Mike Sullivan | Assistant line | 21 | 10 |
| Matt Jones | Assistant line | 1 | 1 |
| Justin Outten | &Running backs | 8 | 1 |
| Rob Moore | Receivers | 10 | 6 |
| Tony Dews | Tight ends | 6 | 6 |
| Kylan Butler | Offensive assistant | 3 | 3 |
| Shane Bowen | Defensive coordinator | 8 | 6 |
| Terrell Williams | *Defensive line | 12 | 6 |
| Clinton McMillan | Line assistant | 3 | 3 |
| Ryan Crow | Outside linebackers | 6 | 6 |
| Bobby King | Inside linebackers | 14 | 2 |
| Zak Kuhr | Inside LB assistant | 4 | 4 |
| Chris Harris | #Cornerbacks | 10 | 1 |
| Scott Booker | Safeties | 6 | 6 |
| Lori Locust | Def. quality control | 5 | 1 |
| Justin Hamilton | Def. quality control | 1 | 1 |
| Craig Aukerman | Special teams coord. | 14 | 7 |
| Tom Quinn | Special teams asst. | 16 | 1 |
| Anthony Levine | Special teams asst. | 1 | 1 |
| Frank Piraino | Dir. sports performance | 5 | 5 |
| Brian Bell | Asst. dir. Sports perf. | 9 | 6 |
| Tyler Rouse | Sports perf. asst. | 2 | 2 |

@ Offensive pass game coord. & Offensive run game coord.
* Asst. head coach/defense # Defensive pass game coord.

## TITANS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/18 | Treylon Burks | WR | Backup |
| 2021 | 1/22 | Caleb Farley | CB | Backup |
| 2020 | 1/29 | Isaiah Wilson | T | FA |
| 2019 | 1/19 | Jeffery Simmons | DT | Starter |
| 2018 | 1/22 | Rashaan Evans | LB | UFA |

## COACHING

Vrabel was the NFL Coach of the Year in 2021 for guiding the Titans to the AFC's top seed despite using a league-high 91 players due to injuries. When the Titans' depleted roster was unable to duplicate that in 2022, it helped lead to the firing of general manager Jon Robinson. Even with new GM Ran Carthon, it means that Vrabel swings one of the biggest sticks in the organization, and the club will be molded in his toughness. For all the good he has done in five years, Vrabel is now in a position where, with Robinson gone, all eyes will be on him and the Titans' success or failure will be in his lap. The biggest challenge for Vrabel this season, aside from the Titans staying healthy, will be to fix an anemic offense that averaged just 17.5 points per game last season.

**RATING: 8**

## QUARTERBACKS

For the first time since becoming a Titan, Tannehill's toughness was not enough. Playing behind a line that surrendered 49 sacks, Tannehill wound up on injured reserve, and the entire offseason became a question of whether or not the team would move on from him and a $36 million cap hit a year before his contract is up. The Titans explored the rookie market, and drafted Will Levis in the second round. Levis possesses incredible talent and upside, but must harness those skills to succeed at the NFL level. His arrival means Tannehill's time is short, and that Malik Willis, drafted in the third round in 2022, is likely not the guy the Titans believe in for the future after his monumental struggles last year.

**RATING: 7**

## RUNNING BACKS

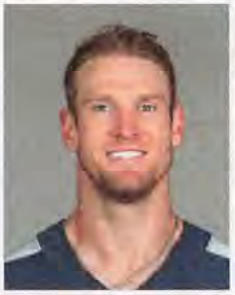
Tennessee's offseason was so tumultuous that not even Henry could escape the rumor mill. There were reports – later denied – that Henry was on the trade block. Simply put, though, Henry is still far and away the Titans' best offensive weapon, even as a 29-year-old running back entering the final year of his deal. Tennessee needs to coax one more strong season from Henry, even though they drafted Tyjae Spears to perhaps be his eventual successor. Hassan Haskins can also fill in, while Julius Chestnut and Jonathan Ward are back-of-the-roster hopefuls probably competing for one spot.

**RATING: 8**

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

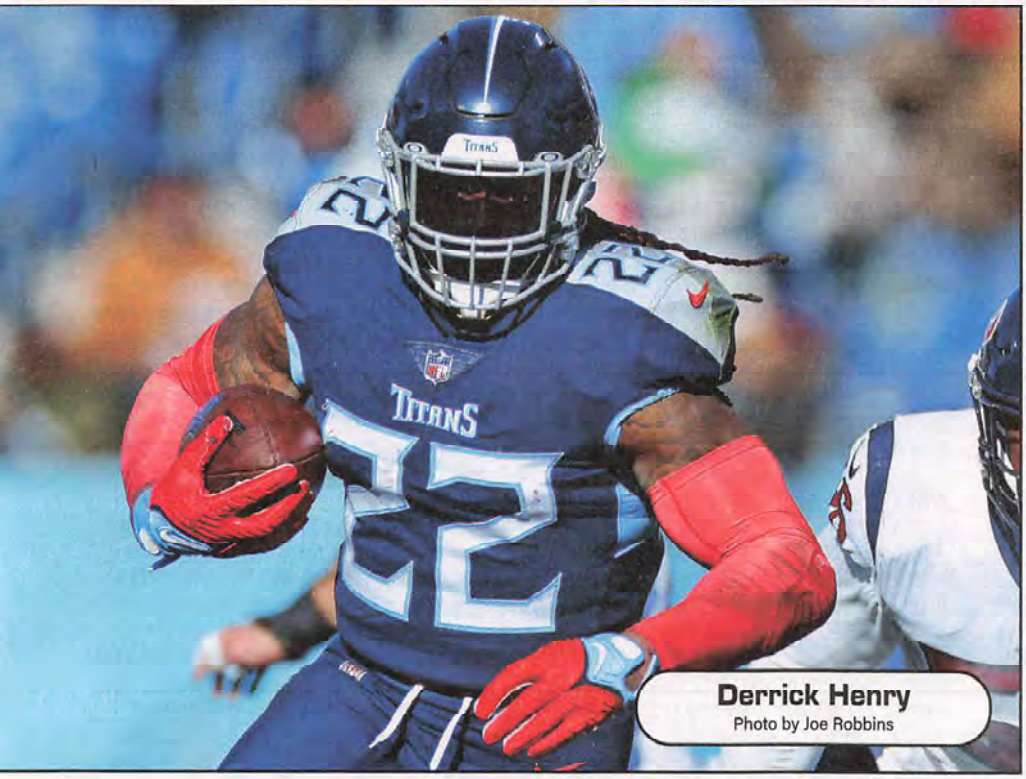
If returner extraordinaire WR **Kyle Phillips** can overcome his durability issues, he could be a wild card for the Titans. The second-year wideout had a nice training camp and was involved in about 30 percent of the plays during the first four games of the regular season before running into injuries. He demonstrated exceptional quickness and vision as a punt returner, in addition to being a very underrated route runner who can provide valuable snaps in the slot. ... The rebirth of G **Dillon Radunz** begins this season. Tennessee has seen its offensive line ravaged by injuries and departures over recent seasons. After flaring out at tackle, Radunz had some positive developments once moved inside, especially with his mirror capabilities in pass-coverage. He is being counted on to assume a starting role. ... No one in the NFL appeared in more defensive snaps last year than rookie CB **Roger McCreary** who logged 1,165 reps. Like any first-year corner, he had his fair share of struggles. However, McCreary also provided his share of momentum-swinging big plays and interceptions. In an effort to help continue his maturation, Tennessee parted ways with DB coach Anthony Midget and brought in a rising star within the coaching ranks in Chris Harris. A solid foundation has been laid for McCreary's growth in Year 2.

## ON THE HOT SEAT



**RYAN TANNEHILL**

Tannehill wasn't the most popular guy in Nashville in 2022 and in this offseason. But the truth is, if the Titans are to turn things around quickly, Tannehill needs to be healthy, have protection and weapons and be the starter again this season. Overall, given last year's lack of receivers and poor offensive line, Tannehill wasn't that bad, but many fans were praying the Titans would off-load him and his $36 million cap hit and give someone else a try. That school of thought, however, is a bit unfair, because all things considered, Tannehill is the best and most productive quarterback the Titans have had since Steve McNair. Now in the last year of his contract, Tannehill gets one more shot in leading the Tennessee offense.



Derrick Henry
Photo by Joe Robbins

## RECEIVERS

The disastrous trade of A.J. Brown last year continues to haunt the Titans, who have one of the weakest receiver corps in the league. Treylon Burks was drafted with part of the Brown trade haul, but struggled with injuries. Still, he is the best they have to offer at receiver. Nick Westbrook-Ikhine, who is fine as a fourth receiver, played a much bigger role than that and could end up doing so again. Journeyman Chris Moore was brought in as a free agent, but the Titans need more explosiveness. Kyle Philips and Racey McMath are both still question marks after missing most of last year with injuries. Rookie Colton Dowell has promise, but may need time to develop. Things are a bit brighter at tight end where Chig Okonkwo was the team's best pass-game weapon by season's end. Rookie Josh Whyle will get a chance for reps, while Trevon Wesko will work primarily as an extra blocker.

**RATING: 6**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The offensive line was an unmitigated disaster in 2022. Thanks to injuries that ended Taylor Lewan's season in Week 2, then later claimed center Ben Jones and guard Nate Davis, Tennessee's protection was a sieve, giving up 49 sacks. It ended with a housecleaning as only Nicholas Petit-Frere and Aaron Brewer survived the purge among last year's starters. Now, the Titans start over with Petit-Frere back at right tackle, and moving Brewer, not particularly effective at left guard, to center. Newcomers include free agents Andre Dillard, penciled in at left tackle, and Daniel Brunskill, a possible

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

### KEY ADDITION:

**QB Will Levis**
The Titans made news when they moved up in the second round of the draft to select Levis. Levis, a polarizing prospect to many scouts, could end up being the Titans future at quarterback.

### OTHER ADDITIONS:

LB Azeez Al-Shaair, G/C Daniel Brunskill, T Andre Dillard, LB Luke Gifford, DE Arden Key, WR Chris Moore, CB Sean Murphy-Bunting, LB Ben Niemann, TE Trevon Wesco

### KEY LOSS

**T Taylor Lewan (2/2)***
After nine years as the club's left tackle, the Titans released Lewan in the offseason. Lewan had two torn ACLs on the same knee in three seasons and a high salary spelled the end for the 2014 first-rounder.

### OTHER LOSSES:

**S Andrew Adams (13/11),** DE Tarell Basham (5/0), WR C.J. Board (4/0), K Randy Bullock (15/0), RB Trenton Cannon (2/0), T Le'Raven Clark (13/2), LB Dylan Cole (15/8), WR Chris Conley (7/1), LB Zach Cunningham (6/6), **G/T Dennis Daley (17/15), G Nate Davis (12/12),** QB Joshua Dobbs (2/2), **LB Bud Dupree (11/11),** DT Mario Edwards Jr. (13/7), DE Da'Shawn Hand (1/0), CB Davontae Harris (6/0), RB Dontrell Hilliard (12/1), WR Cody Hollister (11/3), TE Austin Hooper (17/2), S Lonnie Johnson Jr. (12/0), **C Ben Jones (12/12),** LB Joseph Jones (15/0), CB Joshua Kalu (16/5), **LB David Long Jr. (12/12),** CB Greg Mabin (6/0), CB Terrance Mitchell (11/5), S A.J. Moore (1/0), C Daniel Munyer (2/0), LB Andre Smith (5/0), DL Kevin Strong (16/1), **TE Geoff Swaim (17/13),** DE DeMarcus Walker (17/6), **WR Robert Woods (17/15)***

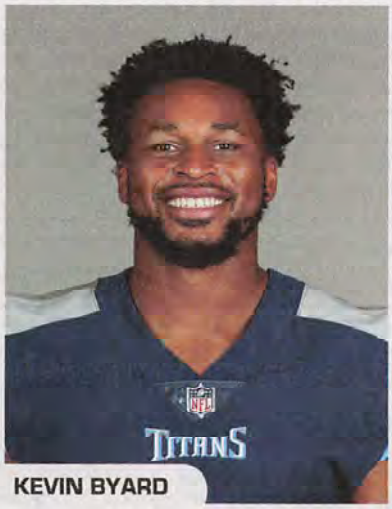
**Total games played/started lost: 343/152**

### STARTERS RETURNING

13: 5 offense, 8 defense, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS



KEVIN BYARD

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ryan Tannehill | 325 | 212 | 2536 | 13 | 6 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Derrick Henry | 349 | 1538 | 4.4 | 13 |
| Dontrell Hilliard | 22 | 145 | 6.6 | 0 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Robert Woods | 53 | 527 | 9.9 | 2 |
| Chigoziem Okonkwo | 32 | 450 | 14.1 | 3 |
| Treylon Burks | 33 | 444 | 13.5 | 1 |
| Austin Hooper | 41 | 444 | 10.8 | 2 |

**Kicking:** Bullock 28/28 XPs, 17/20 FGs, 79 points
**Tackles:** Byard 106, Long 86, McCreary 85
**Sacks:** Autry 8, Simmons 7.5, Walker 7
**INTs:** Byard 4, Long 2, eight tied with 1

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 296.8 | 30 |
| Passing Offense | 171.4 | 30 |
| Rushing Offense | 125.4 | 13 |
| Points | 17.5 | 28 |
| Sacked | 49 | T-27 |
| 3rd Down % | 36.5 | 23 |
| **Defense** | | |
| Total Defense | 351.6 | 23 |
| Passing Defense | 274.8 | 32 |
| Rushing Defense | 76.9 | 1 |
| Points Allowed | 21.1 | T-13 |
| INTs | +14 | T-12 |
| Sacks | 39 | T-18 |
| Turnover Diff. | -3 | T-22 |

# TITANS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | **Burks, Treylon** | 6-2 | 225 | 2 | **Arkansas** | 11/6/0/2 | D1 22 | D1 TENN 22 | **Last year's top draft pick needs to stay healthy and be a true threat on the outside.** |
| 14 | Dowell, Colton | 6-3 | 212 | R | Tennessee-Martin | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 TENN 23 | Most 7th-round rookies don't get an early look, but with the Titans he probably will. |
| 13 | McMath, Racey | 6-3 | 217 | 3 | Louisiana State | 5/0/0/0 | D6 21 | D6 TENN 21 | Size, blazing speed are there, but must be more fluid and smooth as a pass-catcher. |
| 11 | Moore, Chris | 6-1 | 200 | 8 | Cincinnati | 16/7/0/1 | UFA,HOUS 23 | D4 BLT 16 | Journeyman free-agent pickup will get a chance to contribute; possibly as a starter. |
| **85** | **Okonkwo, Chig (TE)** | **6-3** | **238** | **2** | **Maryland** | **17/8** | **D4 22** | **D4 TENN 22** | **By the end of last season, the rookie was Titans best playmaker in passing game.** |
| 18 | *Philips, Kyle | 5-11 | 189 | 2 | UCLA | 4/0/0/2 | D5 22 | D5 TENN 22 | Rookie season ruined by shoulder, hamstring injuries; Titans need him to be slot WR. |
| 86 | Rader, Kevin (TE) | 6-4 | 250 | 3 | Youngstown State | 14/2/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA GB 18 | Primarily a blocking tight end; he earned some praise for his work on special teams. |
| **88** | **Wesco, Trevon (TE/FB)** | **6-3** | **267** | **5** | **West Virginia** | **14/1/0/3** | **UFA,CHI 23** | **D4 NYJ 19** | **Veteran figures to take over top blocking tight-end role from Geoff Swaim this year.** |
| **15** | **Westbrook-Ikhine, Nick** | **6-2** | **211** | **4** | **Indiana** | **17/13** | **FA 23** | **CFA TENN 20** | **His work ethic and smarts make him a coaching staff favorite, despite limited speed.** |
| | Whyle, Josh (TE) | 6-7 | 248 | R | Cincinnati | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 TENN 23 | Fifth-round rookie will get a chance to earn snaps in the two-tight end packages. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **55** | **Brewer, Aaron (C)** | **6-1** | **295** | **4** | **Texas State** | **17/17** | **CFA 20** | **CFA TENN 20** | **Got exposed as undersized left guard last year; moving to center should help him.** |
| **60** | **Brunskill, Daniel (RG)** | **6-5** | **300** | **5** | **San Diego State** | **14/2/0/3** | **UFA,SF 23** | **CFA ATL 17** | **Versatile free agent can play all five spots, but should settle in at right guard.** |
| **71** | **Dillard, Andre (LT)** | **6-5** | **315** | **4** | **Washington State** | **12/0/0/0** | **UFA,PHA 23** | **D1 PHA 19** | **Couldn't crack Eagles starting lineup, but may end up as Titans starting left tackle.** |
| 79 | Duncan, Jaelyn (T) | 6-6 | 306 | R | Maryland | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 TENN 23 | Sixth-round rookie is a project, but might find a role as the swing tackle early on. |
| 73 | *Jones, Jamarco (T) | 6-4 | 293 | 6 | Ohio State | 0/0/0/2 | UFA,SEA 22 | D5 SEA 18 | Signed in 2022 as free agent; he was injured early. Gets a fresh look this year. |
| 62 | Levin, Corey (C/G) | 6-4 | 307 | 5 | Chattanooga | 17/3 | FA 21 | D6 TENN 17 | Re-signed this offseason; figures to be the top interior backup at center, guard. |
| 67 | Newman, Xavier (C/G) | 6-2 | 297 | 1 | Baylor | 1/0/2/0 | FA 22 | CFA TENN 22 | Spent most of last year on practice squad until injuries necessitated promotion. |
| **78** | **Petit-Frere, Nicholas (RT)** | **6-5** | **316** | **2** | **Ohio State** | **16/16/0/1** | **D3 22** | **D3 TENN 22** | **Won right-tackle job in camp. Went through some struggles, but should learn from it.** |
| 75 | *Radunz, Dillon (G) | 6-6 | 301 | 3 | North Dakota State | 11/4/3/0 | D2 21 | D2 TENN 21 | Disappointing 2021 second-rounder was showing some signs of life when he tore ACL. |
| 70 | Roos, Jordan (G) | 6-3 | 302 | 4 | Purdue | 7/3/2/5 | FA 22 | CFA SEA 17 | Another guy who got his chance late in the season thanks to the rash of injuries. |
| **77** | **Skoronski, Peter (LG)** | **6-4** | **313** | **R** | **Northwestern** | **0/0** | **D1 23** | **D1 TENN 23** | **Rookie likely starts at left guard; Titans would be happy if he became left tackle.** |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 36 | Chestnut, Julius | 5-11 | 228 | 2 | Sacred Heart | 6/0/0/3 | FA 22 | CFA TENN 22 | An undrafted rookie last year; special teams will be his ticket to a roster spot. |
| 25 | Haskins, Hassan | 6-2 | 228 | 2 | Michigan | 15/1/0/2 | D4 22 | D4 TENN 22 | Second-year man found a few carries as Henry's primary understudy as a rookie. |
| **22** | **Henry, Derrick** | **6-3** | **247** | **8** | **Alabama** | **16/16/0/1** | **D2 16** | **D2 TENN 16** | **Came back from 2021 foot injury to again pile up yards and be major cog in offense.** |
| 32 | Spears, Tyjae | 5-11 | 195 | R | Tulane | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 TENN 23 | Third-round pick will initially find snaps as third-down back and spelling Henry. |
| 33 | Ward, Jonathan | 6-0 | 202 | 4 | Central Michigan | 8/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA ARIZ 20 | Late-season signee who will be a long shot to stick on the roster in crowded RB room. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Levis, Will | 6-4 | 229 | R | Kentucky | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 TENN 23 | Rookie has all the tools necessary to be QB of the future if he can harness talent. |
| **17** | ***Tannehill, Ryan** | **6-4** | **217** | **12** | **Texas A&M** | **12/12/0/3** | **T,MIA 19** | **D1 MIA 12** | **Enters fifth year as Titans QB; may be his last one, based on contract, adding Levis.** |
| 7 | Willis, Malik | 6-1 | 219 | 2 | Liberty | 8/3/9/0 | D3 22 | D3 TENN 22 | Thrown in to start before he was ready; results were bad, and must improve in camp. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **96** | **Autry, Denico (E)** | **6-5** | **285** | **10** | **Mississippi State** | **12/8/0/5** | **UFA,IND 21** | **CFA OAK 14** | **Veteran was having strong season with 8.0 sacks before a knee injury slowed him down.** |
| 90 | Jones, Naquan (T) | 6-3 | 313 | 3 | Michigan State | 11/1/0/6 | FA 21 | CFA TENN 21 | Former undrafted comes in as backup nose tackle again; will face camp competition. |
| **98** | **Simmons, Jeffery (T)** | **6-4** | **305** | **5** | **Mississippi State** | **15/15/0/2** | **D1 19** | **D1 TENN 19** | **One of best interior D-lineman in NFL; he was rewarded with a $94 million extension.** |
| **93** | **Tart, Teair (NT)** | **6-2** | **304** | **4** | **Florida International** | **16/16/0/1** | **FA 20** | **CFA TENN 20** | **Former undrafted FA has come a long way in short time; more than just a space-eater.** |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **2** | **Al-Shaair, Azeez (I)** | **6-2** | **228** | **5** | **Florida Atlantic** | **12/9/0/0** | **UFA,SF 23** | **CFA SF 19** | **Free agent from 49ers figures to take over for David Long, who left for Dolphins.** |
| 45 | *Campbell, Chance (I) | 6-2 | 232 | 2 | Mississippi | 0/0/0/0 | D6 22 | D6 TENN 22 | Rookie season was ruined by a knee injury that sidelined him for the entire year. |
| 50 | Gibbens, Jack | 6-3 | 242 | 1 | Minnesota | 5/2/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA TENN 22 | Got a late-season chance to play due to injuries, and did a decent job as a rookie. |
| 57 | Gifford, Luke (O) | 6-3 | 243 | 5 | Nebraska | 16/0/0/1 | UFA,DALL 23 | CFA DALL 19 | Comes over from Cowboys; his main role will be as a core member on special teams. |
| **49** | **Key, Arden (O)** | **6-5** | **240** | **6** | **Louisiana State** | **17/3** | **UFA,JAX 23** | **D3 OAK 18** | **Has been productive despite bouncing around; got a three-year deal to join Titans.** |
| **58** | ***Landry III, Harold (O)** | **6-2** | **252** | **6** | **Boston College** | **0/0/0/0** | **D2 18** | **D2 TENN 18** | **Missed entire season with a torn ACL not long after signing a lucrative extension.** |
| 47 | Niemann, Ben (I) | 6-2 | 235 | 6 | Iowa | 17/9 | UFA,ARIZ 23 | CFA KC 18 | Free-agent pickup could compete for a starting spot at inside linebacker in camp. |
| 59 | Okuayinonu, Sam (O) | 6-1 | 269 | 2 | Maryland | 6/0/0/3 | FA 23 | CFA TENN 22 | Made switch to outside LB when injuries hit, which got him promoted to 53-man roster. |
| **56** | **Rice, Monty (I)** | **6-0** | **233** | **3** | **Georgia** | **13/6/0/0** | **D3 21** | **D3 TENN 21** | **Former third-round pick gets shot to start, but needs to improve in pass coverage.** |
| 99 | Weaver, Rashad (O) | 6-4 | 259 | 3 | Pittsburgh | 16/4/0/1 | D4 21 | D4 TENN 21 | Better as an edge setter, but still had his moments as pass rusher with 5.5 sacks. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | Avery, Tre (CB) | 5-11 | 181 | 2 | Rutgers | 14/3/1/2 | CFA 22 | CFA TENN 22 | Came out of nowhere as a rookie to emerge as decent backup option at cornerback. |
| 44 | Brown, Mike (S) | 6-2 | 222 | 1 | Miami, Ohio | 3/0/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA MINN 22 | Late-season add who will compete for a backup spot and on special teams. |
| **31** | **Byard, Kevin (S)** | **5-11** | **212** | **8** | **Middle Tennessee** | **17/17** | **D3 16** | **D3 TENN 16** | **Star safety rejected Titans' request for a pay cut because he was still playing well.** |
| 3 | *Farley, Caleb (CB) | 6-2 | 197 | 3 | Virginia Tech | 9/1/0/0 | D1 21 | D1 TENN 21 | Injuries and struggles have former first-round pick likely down to his last shot. |
| **26** | **Fulton, Kristian (CB)** | **5-11** | **197** | **4** | **Louisiana State** | **11/11/0/6** | **D2 20** | **D2 TENN 20** | **Probably Titans best cornerback, but has struggled to stay healthy over full season.** |
| **37** | **Hooker, Amani (S)** | **5-11** | **210** | **5** | **Iowa** | **9/9/0/8** | **D4 19** | **D4 TENN 19** | **Instinctive safety who played some at nickel last year; has struggled with injuries.** |
| 35 | *Jackson, Chris (CB) | 5-10 | 193 | 4 | Marshall | 1/0/0/0 | FA 22 | D7 TENN 20 | Derailed by injuries and missed almost all of 2022; will compete for depth spot. |
| **21** | **McCreary, Roger (CB)** | **5-11** | **190** | **2** | **Auburn** | **17/17** | **D2 22** | **D2 TENN 22** | **Second-round corner started strong, but seemed to fade late in his rookie season.** |
| 24 | *Molden, Elijah (CB) | 5-10 | 192 | 3 | Washington | 2/1/0/2 | D3 21 | D3 TENN 21 | Valuable nickel back; he's another who has had major health issues past two years. |
| 0 | Murphy-Bunting, Sean (CB) | 6-0 | 195 | 5 | Central Michigan | 12/5/0/5 | UFA,TB 23 | D2 TB 19 | Free agent from the Bucs figures to get in the mix to be a possible starter. |
| 29 | Thompson, Josh | 6-0 | 194 | 2 | Texas | 6/0/0/2 | FA 22 | CFA JAX 22 | Titans liked his work on special teams before he succumbed to injuries last year. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 46 | Cox, Morgan (LS) | 6-4 | 233 | 14 | Tennessee | 17/0 | UFA,BLT 21 | CFA BLT 10 | As steady as they come as a long snapper; veteran went to the Pro Bowl last season. |
| 6 | Shudak, Caleb (K) | 5-7 | 177 | 1 | Iowa | 1/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA TENN 22 | Has a strong leg, but will get competition in training camp before he can win the job. |
| 4 | Stonehouse, Ryan (P) | 5-10 | 193 | 2 | Colorado State | 17/0 | CFA 22 | CFA TENN 22 | Outstanding find as a rookie as he averaged 50.4 yards per punt. |

Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Mason Kinsey (1, Berry), Reggie Roberson Jr. (1, Southern Methodist); TEs Thomas Odukoya (1, Eastern Michigan), Justin Rigg (1, Kentucky); Ts John Leglue (2, Tulane), Andrew Rupcich (1, Culver-Stockton); G Zack Johnson (1, North Dakota State); DE Jayden Peevy (1, Texas A&M); DTs Curtis Brooks (1, Cincinnati), Tyler Shelvin (2, Louisiana State); LB Zach McCloud (1, Miami); S Shyheim Carter (1, Alabama)

right guard, along with first-round pick Peter Skoronski, whom the Titans could start at left guard unless he is the better option at left tackle. There are still depth issues here, as rookie Jaelyn Duncan could end up being the third tackle. Center/guard Corey Levin is a fairly solid backup. Guard Dillon Radunz, a 2021 second-rounder, will miss time recovering from an ACL tear, but likely would not be a starter anyway.

**RATING: 6**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The defensive line is without a doubt the strength of the Titans' roster. Led by All-Pro Jeffery Simmons, this unit did all it could to keep the decimated club in games down the stretch last season. Denico Autry was a difference-maker until he was injured down the stretch, and nose tackle Teair Tart continues to improve his overall game. Depth-wise, the Titans didn't spend a draft choice here, but have been able to find capable undrafteds like Naquan Jones and Sam Okuayinonu to fill the back part of the rotation.

**RATING: 8**

## LINEBACKERS

The best thing about the Titans defense is that Harold Landry III, coming off a career year and contract extension in 2021, will be back after tearing his ACL just before the start of last season. Landry, along with Rashad Weaver and free-agent pickup Arden Key should anchor the edge for Tennessee. Autry and Okuayinonu both got edge reps last year in certain packages. Inside, the Titans opted not to re-sign David Long, and will count on newcomer Azeez Al-Shaair to pick up the slack. Elsewhere, a mix of young holdovers in Monty Rice, Jack Gibbens and Chance Campbell will mix with free agents Ben Niemann and Luke Gifford to fill those spots.

**RATING: 7**

## SECONDARY

Injuries were so prevalent that it is hard to evaluate exactly what the Titans need here. Kevin Byard remains rock solid at safety, and Amani Hooker, when healthy, helps to make a good tandem on the back end. There are, however, major depth concerns behind them. Thanks to the injuries, the Titans have lots of corners. Kristian Fulton is back as a starter, as is Roger McCreary who had his struggles as a rookie. The Titans added free agent Sean Murphy-Bunting and are also hoping Caleb Farley can get healthy and avoid being a first-round bust. Tre Avery was a nice find as an undrafted free agent and could be a decent fourth or fifth cornerback. Elijah Molden getting healthy and shoring up the nickel-back spot could help a lot.

**RATING: 6.5**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

No unit on the Titans is above having major question marks, it appears. Special teams is no exception, as the Titans released kicker Randy Bullock in hopes of finding a kicker with more range. Bullock was solid from 40 yards in, but shaky outside that range. Caleb Shudak kicked in one game last season, and has a strong leg. He will get camp competition from undrafted rookie Trey Wolff. Ryan Stonehouse was fantastic after unseating long-time fixture Brett Kern at punter. Stonehouse averaged 53.1 yards per punt. Hang time still needs work, but overall an amazing year for the rookie. Morgan Cox was near flawless as the long snapper. Meanwhile, the return units seemingly look for someone to hold down that role for more than a few games. Kyle Philips should be first in line on punt returns, while Racey McMath, Chris Moore and some undrafted long shots could get looks on kickoffs.

**RATING: 6**

## INTANGIBLES

The Titans made some needed changes in the offseason, firing offensive coordinator Todd Downing and overhauling the offensive line. However, failing to address the receiver situation and the lack of a clear-cut direction regarding a rebuild leads to plenty of questions about the franchise heading into 2023.

**RATING: Minus-1**

— Terry McCormick

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. The Titans' offense, despite the lack of wide receiver production, could be better this season, if for only the fact that it can't be much worse. New offensive coordinator Tim Kelly gets his shot at revamping the overall approach and trying to improve the passing game.

2. Keep an eye on both Ryan Tannehill and Derrick Henry, as both are in the last years of their contracts. While the roster isn't as strong as it was in 2019-21, the Titans are likely to ask them to carry the load again, but the supporting cast must improve.

3. Jeffery Simmons, armed with a $94 million contract, should continue to be a dominant force and spearhead the defense. With the offense in flux, the defense may have to carry the load again for the Titans if they are to contend in the AFC South.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 7-10**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | N.Y. GIANTS | 20-21 |
| Sept. 19 | at Buffalo | 7-41 |
| Sept. 25 | LAS VEGAS | 24-22 |
| Oct. 2 | at Indianapolis | 24-17 |
| Oct. 9 | at Washington | 21-17 |
| Oct. 23 | INDIANAPOLIS | 19-10 |
| Oct. 30 | at Houston | 17-10 |
| Nov. 6 | at Kansas City (OT) | 17-20 |
| Nov. 13 | DENVER | 17-10 |
| Nov. 17 | at Green Bay | 27-17 |
| Nov. 27 | CINCINNATI | 16-20 |
| Dec. 4 | at Philadelphia | 10-35 |
| Dec. 11 | JACKSONVILLE | 22-36 |
| Dec. 18 | at L.A. Chargers | 14-17 |
| Dec. 24 | HOUSTON | 14-19 |
| Dec. 29 | DALLAS | 13-27 |
| Jan. 7 | at Jacksonville | 16-20 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Central**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | at Chicago | TBD |
| Aug. 17-21 | at Minnesota | TBD |
| Aug. 24-27 | NEW ENGLAND | TBD |
| Sept. 10 | at New Orleans | 12:00 |
| Sept. 17 | L.A. CHARGERS | 12:00 |
| Sept. 24 | at Cleveland | 12:00 |
| Oct. 1 | CINCINNATI | 12:00 |
| Oct. 8 | at Indianapolis | 12:00 |
| Oct. 15 | Baltimore (London) | 8:30 |
| | BYE | |
| Oct. 29 | ATLANTA | 12:00 |
| Nov. 2 | at Pittsburgh (Thu) | 7:15 |
| Nov. 12 | at Tampa Bay | 12:00 |
| Nov. 19 | at Jacksonville | 12:00 |
| Nov. 26 | CAROLINA | 12:00 |
| Dec. 3 | INDIANAPOLIS | 12:00 |
| Dec. 11 | at Miami (Mon) | 7:15 |
| Dec. 17 | HOUSTON | 12:00 |
| Dec. 24 | SEATTLE | 12:00 |
| Dec. 31 | at Houston | 12:00 |
| TBD | JACKSONVILLE | TBD |

# Surprise: Chiefs Remain team to Beat

Reports of the demise of the Kansas City Chiefs were greatly exaggerated.

They dominated this division again for a seventh title under head coach Andy Reid. In his fifth year as Chiefs starting quarterback, Patrick Mahomes completed his second 6-0 sweep of division rivals and ran his record against AFC West teams to 26-3. Mahomes then avenged personal nemesis Joe Burrow in the AFC Championship and led the Chiefs to their second Super Bowl title in three appearances over the last four years.

Who can stop the Chiefs? Enter Sean Payton, the former Saints head coach who climbed back into the ring after a one-year hiatus to take over the Broncos under deep-, deep-pocketed team ownership.

## DENVER BRONCOS

In August of 2022, heirs of the Wal-Mart family purchased the Broncos for a then-record $4.65 billion (since eclipsed by the expected sale of the Washington Commanders), ending squabbling ownership of the franchise under the Pat Bowlen Family Trust.

They couldn't stop a streak of six losing seasons in a row in their first season in charge. But the intention to restore the Broncos back to prominence resulted in luring Sean Payton out of the network TV studio for a reported $18 million a year — second among NFL coaches to Bill Belichick ($20 million).

Payton's immediate task is to revive the career of quarterback Russell Wilson, 34, who fell off the NFL map in his first season in Denver with career lows in wins (four) and every relevant passing category.

## KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Head coach Andy Reid and quarterback Patrick Mahomes had no problem adjusting to life after the departure of receiver Tyreek Hill. They were as productive and creative offensively as ever.

With general manager Brett Veach, Reid, Mahomes and tight end Travis Kelce at the top of their games, the Chiefs show no signs of abdicating the throne on top of this division.

Veach's main task was replacing departed left tackle Orlando Brown Jr. He did so with Donovan Smith, an eight-year starter conveniently released in the spring by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Expect the drumbeat to go on in Arrowhead Stadium.

## LAS VEGAS RAIDERS

After sinking to 6-11 in their first year at the helm, general manager Dave Ziegler and head coach Josh McDaniels plotted their new course. First order of business: releasing quarterback Derek Carr, who had made 142 starts in nine seasons with the Raiders, but only one playoff appearance, a loss.

The football management tandem relied on their New England past to replace Carr with Jimmy Garoppolo and united him with former Patriots teammate Brian Hoyer as the backup. They also added another ex-Patriot, receiver Jakobi Meyers.

Ziegler needs to score some bulls-eyes in the draft to accelerate the Raiders' rebuild. His aim was sharp in netting Texas Tech defensive end Tyree Wilson and Notre Dame tight end Michael Mayer with his first two picks.

## LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

The Chargers eked into the AFC playoffs for the first time in four seasons in the second year under head coach Brandon Staley. Now they have to take quarterback Justin Herbert to the next level before his inevitable second contract cramps the Chargers' salary cap.

With a loaded roster in hand, general manager Tom Telesco was quiet in free agency. He added Texas Christian receiver Quentin Johnston with his first pick in the draft and then patched up defensive depth with two linebackers after that.

The Chargers believe they have the roster to take another stride in the AFC playoffs. Good health and another step forward by Herbert will be the key factors in that regard.

## STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

| | Overall | Div. | 8 Non Div. | 3 Non Div. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kansas City | .512 | .412 | .519 | .700 |
| Los Angeles | .517 | .490 | .519 | .569 |
| Las Vegas | .524 | .569 | .519 | .451 |
| Denver | .517 | .588 | .519 | .373 |

8 Non-Div. are games vs. two common divisions;
3 Non-Div. are games vs. teams with same place in standings.

## 5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

**1. Is it time to classify the Andy Reid-Patrick Mahomes era an NFL dynasty?**

In five years together, the Chiefs are 64-18 with five division titles in the regular season and 11-3 in the postseason with two Super Bowl titles in three appearances. That's a dynasty, yes.

**2. How long will it take Sean Payton to make his mark in Denver?**

In his first season as New Orleans head coach, Payton turned the Saints from 3-13 to 10-6. So, let's say immediately.

**3. Can Justin Herbert and the Chargers dethrone the Chiefs?**

Herbert is the only quarterback in the division to defeat Mahomes (he's 2-4 against him). The Chargers — the only division team to beat Mahomes — added a third win before Herbert took over.

**4. Are the Raiders taking the right approach?**

Like he did in a previous stint with the Broncos, McDaniels is playing the ex-Patriots card in Las Vegas. Seems he hasn't learned.

**5. Does Brandon Staley sit on the hottest coaching seat in the division?**

A wild-card appearance cooled it somewhat, but a setback may result in nervous moments for him.

— Tony Grossi

# DENVER BRONCOS

## Fans Love that Broncos are Now Payton's Place

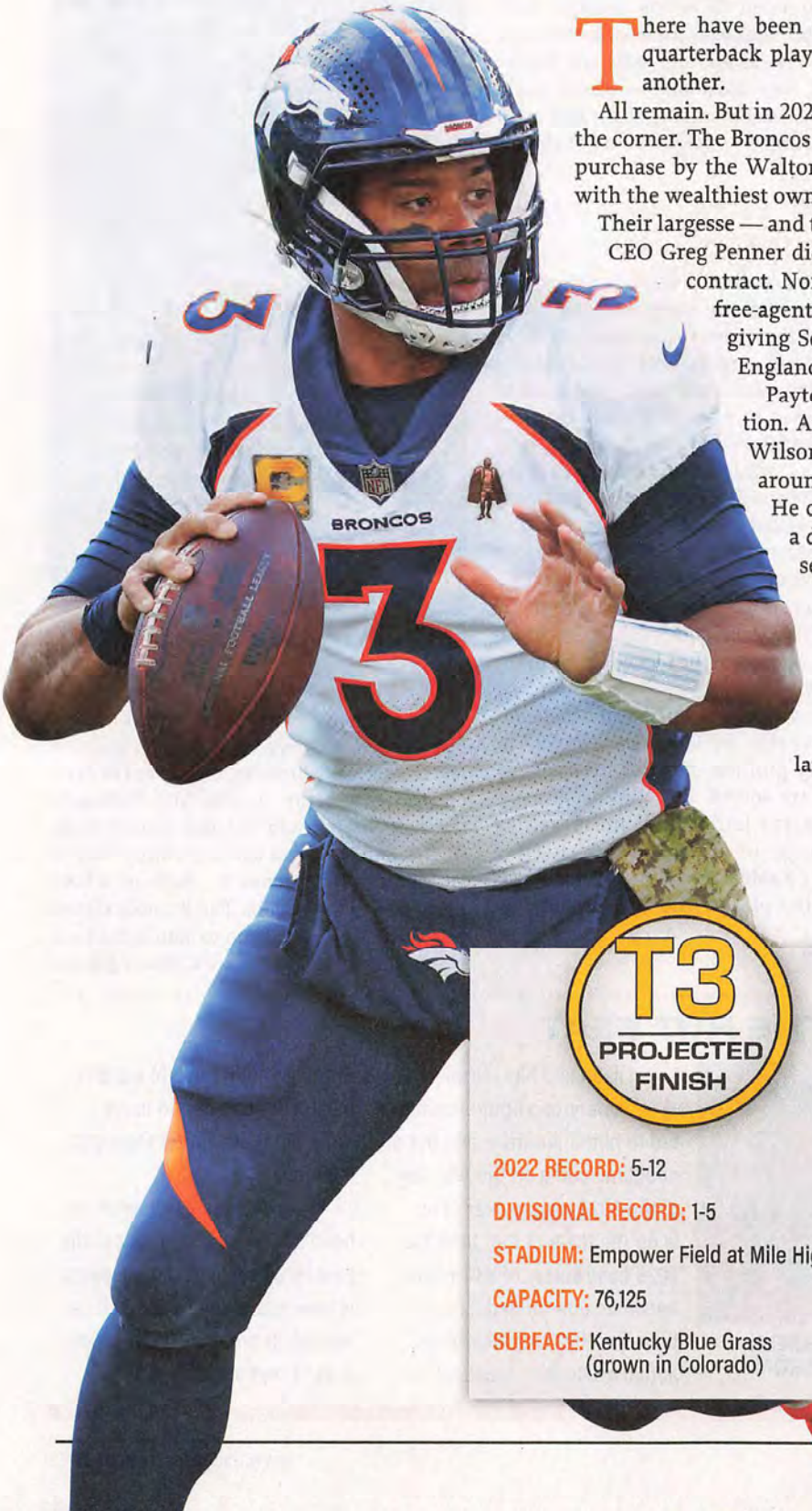
There have been three constants of the Broncos since 2016. Mediocre quarterback play. Missing the playoffs. And one coaching change after another.

All remain. But in 2023, it doesn't seem like the next regime is waiting around the corner. The Broncos no longer exist under the specter of a potential sale; the purchase by the Walton-Penner group gave the team the stability that comes with the wealthiest ownership group in North American professional sports.

Their largesse — and the gumption to use it to maximum effect — meant that CEO Greg Penner didn't flinch at eating three years of Nathaniel Hackett's contract. Nor did he blanch at authorizing this year's biggest total free-agent expenditure. And most important, Penner signed off on giving Sean Payton a coaching contract exceeded by only New England's Bill Belichick.

Payton wasted no time putting his imprint on the organization. After his first press conference, he declared that Russell Wilson's personal quarterbacks coach would no longer be around the building. Payton changed the offseason schedule. He cut off the flow of social-media posts from OTAs, citing a desire to be "anonymous donors" after Denver's six consecutive losing seasons.

But in 2023, all of that will rest in the shadow of Payton's work with Wilson, who endured a career-worst season in his first year as a Bronco. If Payton restores Wilson to his Seattle heights, the Broncos can return to the playoffs. But if Wilson continues to struggle, Payton's maiden Denver voyage will be about laying groundwork and building culture.




**Russell Wilson**
Photo by Joe Robbins

**T3**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 5-12

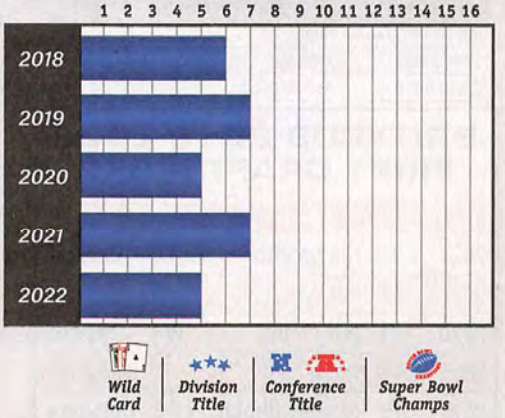
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 1-5

**STADIUM:** Empower Field at Mile High

**CAPACITY:** 76,125

**SURFACE:** Kentucky Blue Grass (grown in Colorado)

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

13655 BRONCOS PARKWAY
ENGLEWOOD, CO 80112
(303) 649-9000
WWW.DENVERBRONCOS.COM

**TRAINING CAMP:** Englewood, CO
**HEAD COACH:** Sean Payton
**1ST SEASON WITH BRONCOS**
- 16th season as NFL head coach
- 161-97-1 overall; 9-8 postseason

**OWNERSHIP:** Walton-Penner Ownership Group
**OWNER/CEO:** Greg Penner
**GENERAL MANAGER:** George Paton
**ASSISTANT GM:** Darren Mougey
**EXEC. DIR. FOOTBALL OPS/SPECIAL ADVISOR TO GM:** Kelly Kleine
**DIR. PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Reed Burckhardt
**SENIOR EXECUTIVE SCOUT:** Roman Phifer
**DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Brian Stark
**DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:** A.J. Durso

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Joe Lombardi | Offensive coordinator | 18 | 1 |
| Davis Webb | Quarterbacks | 1 | 1 |
| John Morton | Pass game coordinator | 21 | 1 |
| Zach Strief | Offensive line | 3 | 1 |
| Austin King | Assistant line | 4 | 1 |
| Lou Ayeni | Running backs | 1 | 1 |
| Keary Colbert | Receivers | 1 | 1 |
| Declan Doyle | Tight ends | 5 | 1 |
| Zack Grossi | Off. quality control | 7 | 2 |
| Logan Kilgore | Off. quality control | 1 | 1 |
| Favian Upshaw | Off. quality control | 1 | 1 |
| Vance Joseph | Defensive coordinator | 19 | 3 |
| Joe Vitt | Sr. defensive assistant | 42 | 1 |
| Jamar Cain | Pass rush specialist | 1 | 1 |
| Marcus Dixon | Defensive line | 3 | 2 |
| Greg Manusky | Inside linebackers | 21 | 1 |
| Michael Wilhoite | Outside linebackers | 5 | 1 |
| Christian Parker | Defensive backs | 5 | 3 |
| Isaac Shewmaker | Def. quality control | 3 | 1 |
| Addison Lynch | Def. quality control | 6 | 1 |
| Mike Westhoff | Assistant head coach | 33 | 1 |
| Ben Kotwica | Special teams coord. | 16 | 1 |
| Chris Banjo | Asst. special teams | 1 | 1 |
| Beau Lowery | VP Health/Performance | 11 | 1 |
| Dan Dalrymple | Head S&C | 17 | 1 |
| Korey Jones | Assistant S&C | 4 | 4 |
| Shaun Snee | Assistant S&C | 1 | 1 |

## BRONCOS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 2/64 | Nik Bonitto | LB | Backup |
| 2021 | 1/9 | Pat Surtain II | CB | Starter |
| 2020 | 1/15 | Jerry Jeudy | WR | Starter |
| 2019 | 1/20 | Noah Fant | TE | Seahawks |
| 2018 | 1/5 | Bradley Chubb | LB | Dolphins |

## COACHING

Since Gary Kubiak stepped away after the 2016 season, the Broncos cycled through first-time head coaches. The names changed; the results stayed the same. With Payton in the building, the Broncos no longer have to worry about how a new coach will handle game management or the disparate personalities in the locker room. Payton melded new and old on his staff. He reunited with his former assistant Joe Lombardi, coaxed longtime special-teams guru Mike Westhoff out of retirement to be his assistant head coach and brought back his ex-assistant head coach, Joe Vitt, as a senior assistant. But he also hired two assistants — quarterbacks coach Davis Webb and special-teams assistant Chris Banjo — straight from the playing ranks.

**RATING: 8**

## QUARTERBACKS

It wasn't just that Wilson struggled last year. It was that in every way, he rarely looked like the quarterback who racked up nine Pro-Bowl appearances in 10 Seattle seasons. His accuracy and playmaking ability seemed to evaporate until the final two weeks of the season. In those games — which came after the Broncos fired head coach Nathaniel Hackett — the remaining coaches tweaked tactics to play to Wilson's long-time strengths of mobility, quick reads and improvisation. The impact was immediate; after accounting for just 13 total touchdowns — 12 passing, one rushing — in his first 13 Broncos starts, he racked up six in the final two weeks.

Payton vowed to play to Wilson's strengths. If they do that, and it looks like the January glimpse, most of the Broncos' problems are solved. But if Wilson struggles, free agent Jarrett Stidham is waiting in the wings; in March, Payton asserted that the ex-Raiders and Patriots backup is an ascending player who "can become an NFL starter."

**RATING: 7**

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

The core cast of characters will look familiar in Denver, but expectations have entirely changed under new head coach Sean Payton. If anyone can cure Russell Wilson of his Mile-High woes, the Broncos pegged the best candidate available for the task. ... At wideout, the starting duo of WRs **Jerry Jeudy** and **Cortland Sutton** remain intact for Wilson, but the corps could have an ebb and flow to it throughout the season, depending on availability. With WR **KJ Hamler** rehabbing from offseason surgery on a pectoral injury, the team added veteran receiver Marquez Callaway. However, keep an eye on WR **Kendall Hinton**. The former Wake Forest quarterback enters his third season playing his new position and came up with clutch performances last year. He could be in line for an expanded role. ... TE **Greg Dulcich** will look to build off an impressive rookie campaign that saw him nab 33 balls for 411 yards in 10 games. He is expected to blossom under Payton and become a full-time starter. ... Meanwhile, OLB **Baron Browning** oozes potential. There is no doubt he can apply pressure on the quarterback. Once he masters how to finish, Browning is capable of finding himself among the league leaders in sacks.

## RUNNING BACKS

Hope remains high for Javonte Williams, but after tearing two ligaments in his knee last October, the Broncos might need to exercise patience before getting him back onto the field. That could put the ground game in the hands of free-agent pickups Samaje Perine and Tony Jones Jr., both of whom bring power to the mix. The Broncos signed free agent Michael Burton to handle fullback chores. Denver didn't draft a running back,

## ON THE HOT SEAT

RUSSELL WILSON

Wilson still has massive salary-cap figures committed to him in future years. But a deadline looms on the fifth day of the 2024 league year. If he is on the team at that time, his 2025 base salary of $37 million becomes guaranteed. Should Wilson's 2022 dip become an actual multi-year decline, the Broncos might have to eat $85 million of dead cap to move on — but that's better than $122 million.

The arrival of Sean Payton as head coach should bring out the best in Wilson, but the question is how much quality football he has left. It probably won't take long to find out.

Pat Surtain II
Photo by Joe Robbins

but a couple of undrafted free agents could factor into the mix.

**RATING: 6**

## RECEIVERS

Potential remains high here. But so do the "ifs." The first is regarding Jerry Jeudy, who could be the No. 1 receiver — if his season-ending play last year was for real. The next is with Courtland Sutton, who has yet to rebound to the form he displayed prior to a 2022 torn ACL. And then there's Tim Patrick, whose reliability was terrific — but who is returning from a torn ACL of his own suffered during the 2022 training camp. And then there's the speed threats; if second-round pick Marvin Mims Jr. can get up to speed — or if oft-injured KJ Hamler can finally stay healthy — Denver will have its stretch-the-field presence.

At tight end, the Broncos will try to piece together production from a group that includes solid receiving targets Greg Dulcich and Albert Okwuegbunam, blocker Chris Manhertz and ex-Saint Adam Trautman, who arrived via a draft-day trade. Payton said he had a "clear vision" for Trautman, who started 12 of the 15 games in which he played last year.

**RATING: 7**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

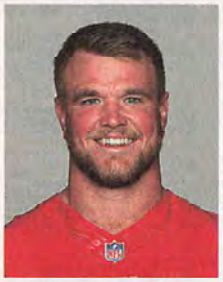
Payton prizes line play, so it came as little surprise that he chose to make his biggest offseason splash here, lavishing $62 million in full guarantees on two free agents: right tackle Mike McGlinchey and guard Ben Powers. Powers emerged in the last two seasons with Baltimore, while McGlinchey will be counted on to stop the revolving door of 19 different starting right tackles in the past nine seasons. Garett Bolles missed the last 12 games of 2022 with a fractured leg; he'll return but faces a key year, as the Broncos could save $16 million in cap space if they move on from him in 2024.

Sturdy, powerful Quinn Meinerz could flourish in his third year at right guard; he

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

### KEY ADDITION

**RT Mike McGlinchey**



He didn't come cheap in free agency — $35 million in fully guaranteed money — but he should stabilize a spot that has long been in flux.

### OTHER ADDITIONS:

DE Zach Allen, FB Michael Burton, WR Marquez Callaway, P Riley Dixon, G Kyle Fuller, RB Tony Jones Jr., TE Chris Manhertz, RB Samaje Perine, G Ben Powers, CB Tremon Smith, QB Jarrett Stidham, TE Adam Trautman

### KEY LOSS:

**DE Dre'Mont Jones (13/13)***

Jones was one of the league's most consistent interior pass rushers, notching at least 5.5 sacks in each of the last three seasons. Denver hopes Zach Allen can replicate Jones' production.

### OTHER LOSSES:

LB Dakota Allen (2/0), T Calvin Anderson (14/7), TE Andrew Beck (13/4), LS Jacob Bobenmoyer (13/9), RB Mike Boone (9/0), T Tom Compton (1/0), CB Ronald Darby (5/5), RB Chase Edmonds (5/1), **T Cameron Fleming (15/15), G Graham Glasgow (17/13), S Kareem Jackson (17/17)**, CB Lamar Jackson (8/0), DE Jonathan Kongbo (3/0), RB Marlon Mack (6/0), RB Latavius Murray (12/7), CB Darius Phillips (9/0), **G Dalton Risner (15/15)**, QB Brett Rypien (4/2), TE Eric Saubert (17/6), WR Freddie Swain (3/1), **TE Eric Tomlinson (17/12)**, T Billy Turner (8/7), P Corliss Waitman (17/0), DL **DeShawn Williams (17/15)***

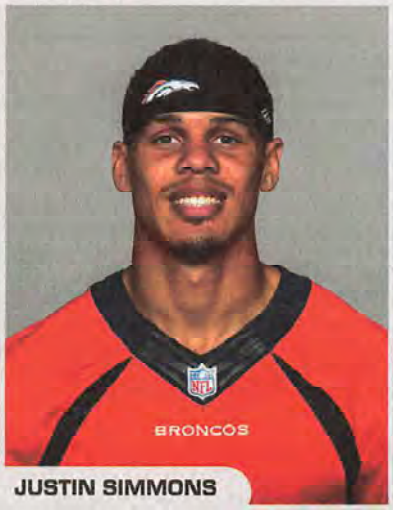
**Total games played/started lost: 260/149**

### STARTERS RETURNING

15: 7 offense, 8 defense, kicker

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS



JUSTIN SIMMONS

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Russell Wilson | 483 | 292 | 3524 | 16 | 11 |
| Brett Rypien | 88 | 53 | 483 | 2 | 4 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Latavius Murray | 160 | 703 | 4.4 | 5 |
| Melvin Gordon | 90 | 318 | 3.5 | 2 |
| Russell Wilson | 55 | 277 | 5 | 3 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jerry Jeudy | 67 | 972 | 14.5 | 6 |
| Courtland Sutton | 64 | 829 | 13 | 2 |
| Greg Dulcich | 33 | 411 | 12.5 | 2 |
| Kendall Hinton | 24 | 311 | 13 | 0 |

**Kicking:** McManus 25/27 XPs, 28/36 FGs, 109 points
**Tackles:** Singleton 152, Jewell 128, Jackson 94
**Sacks:** Jones 6.5, Chubb 5.5, Browning 5
**INTs:** Simmons 6, Sterns 2, Jewell 2, Surtain 2

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 325.1 | 21 |
| Passing Offense | 211.3 | 19 |
| Rushing Offense | 113.8 | 21 |
| Points | 16.9 | 32 |
| Sacked | 63 | 32 |
| 3rd Down % | 29.1 | 32 |
| **Defense** | | |
| Total Defense | 320.0 | 7 |
| Passing Defense | 210.2 | 12 |
| Rushing Defense | 109.8 | 10 |
| Points Allowed | 21.1 | T-13 |
| INTs | 15 | T-10 |
| Sacks | 36 | T-23 |
| Turnover Diff. | -1 | T-16 |

# BRONCOS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Callaway, Marquez (RS) | 6-2 | 204 | 4 | Tennessee | 14/3/0/3 | FA 23 | CFA NORL 20 | In his last season playing for Payton (2021), led Saints in receiving yards. |
| **80** | ***Dulcich, Greg (TE)** | **6-4** | **245** | **2** | **UCLA** | **10/6/0/0** | **D3 22** | **D3 DEN 22** | **Was effective when healthy, but dealt with hamstring issues during rookie year.** |
| 1 | *Hamler, KJ | 5-9 | 178 | 4 | Penn State | 7/0/0/4 | D2 20 | D2 DEN 20 | Has missed more games (27) than he's played (23) as a pro. |
| 9 | Hinton, Kendall | 6-0 | 195 | 3 | Wake Forest | 12/5/0/3 | FA 22 | CFA DEN 20 | Do-it-all presence might get squeezed out of a spot. |
| 17 | Humphrey, Lil'Jordan | 6-4 | 225 | 4 | Texas | 6/2/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA NORL 19 | Needs to become core special-teamer to stick around. |
| **10** | **Jeudy, Jerry** | **6-1** | **193** | **4** | **Alabama** | **15/14/0/2** | **D1 20** | **D1 DEN 20** | **Finally looked like a WR1 late last year; can he carry that forward?** |
| 89 | Johnson, Brandon | 6-2 | 195 | 2 | Central Florida | 7/1/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA DEN 22 | Will need to prove himself again to new staff in crowded WR room. |
| 84 | Manhertz, Chris (TE) | 6-6 | 260 | 8 | Canisius | 17/11 | UFA,JAX 23 | FA BUFF 15 | Should be the team's primary blocking tight end. |
| 83 | Mims, Jr., Marvin | 5-11 | 184 | R | Oklahoma | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 DEN 23 | Brings needed vertical-speed threat to the offense. |
| 85 | Ogwuegbunam, Albert (TE) | 6-5 | 256 | 4 | Missouri | 8/1/2/7 | D4 20 | D4 DEN 20 | As he showed late last year, can still be dynamic pass-catching threat. |
| **81** | ***Patrick, Tim** | **6-4** | **212** | **6** | **Utah** | **0/0/0/0** | **FA 18** | **CFA BLT 17** | **Some players pointed to his injury as the one from which '22 team couldn't recover.** |
| **14** | **Sutton, Courtland** | **6-4** | **216** | **6** | **Southern Methodist** | **15/15/0/2** | **D2 18** | **D2 DEN 18** | **Has just four touchdowns in 32 games since returning from torn ACL.** |
| 82 | Trautman, Adam (TE) | 6-5 | 253 | 4 | Dayton | 15/12/0/2 | T,NORL 23 | D3 NORL 20 | Ex-Saint could have the best all-around skill set in Broncos' TE room. |
| 15 | Virgil, Jalen | 6-0 | 210 | 2 | Appalachian State | 9/1/1/7 | CFA 22 | CFA DEN 22 | Has plenty of straight-line speed, but faces fight for roster spot. |
| 12 | Washington, Montrell | 5-9 | 170 | 2 | Samford | 15/1/0/2 | D5 22 | D5 DEN 22 | Broncos added other potential returners after he struggled as rookie. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 75 | Bailey, Quinn (T) | 6-6 | 323 | 3 | Arizona State | 8/1/1/1 | FA 22 | CFA DEN 19 | Made first career start in 2022 finale and held his own. |
| **72** | ***Bolles, Garett (LT)** | **6-5** | **300** | **7** | **Utah** | **5/5/0/0** | **D1 17** | **D1 DEN 17** | **Contract situation makes this a massive, make-or-break year.** |
| **79** | ***Cushenberry III, Lloyd (C)** | **6-4** | **315** | **4** | **Louisiana State** | **8/8/0/0** | **D3 20** | **D3 DEN 20** | **Faces fork-in-the-road moment in his contract year.** |
| 67 | DiLauro, Christian (T) | 6-6 | 300 | 1 | Illinois | 3/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA CLV 18 | All of his work last year came on special-teams units. |
| 76 | Forsyth, Alex (C) | 6-4 | 312 | R | Oregon | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 DEN 23 | Film was better than his measurables; will have a chance to stick on 53. |
| 55 | Fuller, Kyle (G/C) | 6-5 | 320 | 5 | Baylor | 17/0 | UFA,SEA 23 | D7 HOUS 17 | Was Wilson's starting center for eight games in Seattle. |
| **69** | **McGlinchey, Mike (RT)** | **6-8** | **310** | **6** | **Notre Dame** | **17/17** | **UFA,SF 23** | **D1 SF 18** | **Should provide the stability Denver has long lacked at right tackle.** |
| **77** | **Meinerz, Quinn (RG)** | **6-3** | **320** | **3** | **Wisconsin-Whitewater** | **13/13/1/3** | **D3 21** | **D3 DEN 21** | **Plays with power that should suit him well in Payton's scheme.** |
| **74** | **Powers, Ben (LG)** | **6-4** | **328** | **5** | **Oklahoma** | **17/17** | **UFA,BLT 23** | **D4 BLT 19** | **Ascendant mauler had breakthrough season last year.** |
| 78 | Sherman, Will (T) | 6-4 | 300 | 1 | Colorado | 0/0/1/0 | FA 22 | D6 NE 21 | Didn't make it on the field last year; must make splash in summer. |
| 60 | Wattenberg, Luke (C) | 6-5 | 300 | 2 | Washington | 8/1/9/0 | D5 22 | D5 DEN 22 | Staff likes his potential, but he'll have to prove himself to new coaches. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 36 | Badie, Tyler | 5-8 | 194 | 1 | Missouri | 1/0/0/1 | FA 22 | D6 BLT 22 | Scored on one of his two touches during the only game he played last year. |
| 20 | Burton, Michael (FB) | 5-11 | 242 | 9 | Rutgers | 17/0 | UFA,KC 23 | D5 DET 15 | Brought in as much for his special-teams ability as his fullback experience. |
| 28 | *Crockett, Damarea | 5-11 | 225 | 3 | Missouri | 0/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA HOUS 19 | Will need to show explosiveness as he returns from ACL injury. |
| 26 | Jones Jr., Tony | 5-11 | 224 | 3 | Notre Dame | 6/0/0/7 | FA 23 | CFA NORL 20 | Ex-Saints RB has career 2.7-yard average on 67 carries. |
| 25 | Perine, Samaje | 5-11 | 235 | 7 | Oklahoma | 16/2 | UFA,CIN 23 | D4 WSH 17 | Versatile power back will provide stable presence in room. |
| **33** | ***Williams, Javonte** | **5-10** | **220** | **3** | **North Carolina** | **4/4/0/0** | **D2 21** | **D2 DEN 21** | **Recovering from two torn knee ligaments, so Broncos will be cautious.** |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | Guarantano, Jarrett | 6-3 | 219 | 1 | Washington State | 0/0/1/3 | FA 22 | CFA ARIZ 22 | Looks the part and has the measurables. Will that be enough? |
| 4 | Stidham, Jarrett | 6-3 | 215 | 5 | Auburn | 5/2/12/0 | UFA,LV 23 | D4 NE 19 | Payton believes he has upside; showed plenty of that in his first NFL start last year. |
| **3** | **Wilson, Russell** | **5-11** | **215** | **12** | **Wisconsin** | **15/15/0/2** | **T,DEN 22** | **D3 SEA 12** | **2022 was the first time since 2016 that he didn't have twice as many TDs as INTs.** |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **99** | **Allen, Zach (E)** | **6-5** | **281** | **5** | **Boston College** | **13/13/0/4** | **UFA,ARIZ 23** | **D3 ARIZ 19** | **Broke out in contract year last season; Broncos counting on him to build on that.** |
| 71 | Garcia, Elijah (T) | 6-5 | 302 | 1 | Rice | 2/0/0/3 | FA 22 | CFA LAR 22 | Played 18 snaps in final two games last year. |
| 92 | Harris, Jonathan (E) | 6-5 | 295 | 3 | Lindenwood | 8/4/0/2 | FA 22 | CFA CHI 19 | Saw substantial playing time late in 2022 and was stout against the run. |
| 91 | Henningsen, Matt (T) | 6-3 | 291 | 2 | Wisconsin | 17/0 | D6 22 | D6 DEN 22 | Energetic, high-motor player should be solid rotational piece. |
| **93** | **Jones, D.J. (E)** | **6-0** | **305** | **7** | **Mississippi** | **15/15/0/2** | **UFA,SF 22** | **D6 SF 17** | **Will face adjustment without Dre'Mont Jones to play off.** |
| **98** | **Purcell, Mike (NT)** | **6-3** | **328** | **7** | **Wyoming** | **17/4** | **FA 19** | **CFA SF 13** | **Played in all 17 games last year; has a strong locker-room voice.** |
| 96 | Uwazurike, Eyioma (T) | 6-6 | 320 | 2 | Iowa State | 8/0/0/9 | D4 22 | D4 DEN 22 | Improved down the stretch and could eventually push for starting role. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 45 | *Allen, Christopher (O) | 6-4 | 242 | 2 | Alabama | 0/0/0/0 | CFA 22 | CFA DEN 22 | Hasn't played a game since Sept. 4, 2021, when he suffered a foot injury. |
| 42 | Bonitto, Nik (O) | 6-3 | 240 | 2 | Oklahoma | 15/1/1/1 | D2 22 | D2 DEN 22 | Second-round pick has pass-rush punch, but is still developing vs. the run. |
| **56** | **Browning, Baron (O)** | **6-3** | **240** | **3** | **Ohio State** | **14/8/0/3** | **D3 21** | **D3 DEN 21** | **Elite bend, high football I.Q. and good traits. Broncos need him to make the leap.** |
| 53 | Cooper, Jonathon (O) | 6-4 | 257 | 3 | Ohio State | 14/9/0/3 | D7 21 | D7 DEN 21 | Former seventh-round pick has a knack for positive plays. |
| **5** | ***Gregory, Randy (O)** | **6-5** | **242** | **6** | **Nebraska** | **6/3/0/0** | **UFA,DALL 22** | **D2 DALL 15** | **Broncos saw flashes of brilliance, but he played just six games.** |
| 50 | *Griffith, Jonas (I) | 6-4 | 250 | 3 | Indiana State | 9/8/0/0 | T,SF 21 | CFA SF 20 | Gives the Broncos a proven reserve option and core special-teamer. |
| **47** | **Jewell, Josey (I)** | **6-2** | **236** | **6** | **Iowa** | **13/13/0/4** | **D4 18** | **D4 DEN 18** | **Bounced back from injury and posted career-high 128 tackles.** |
| 54 | *Martin, Jake (O) | 6-2 | 242 | 6 | Temple | 13/0/0/0 | T,NYJ 22 | D6 SEA 18 | Arrived in midseason trade and was solid in edge rotation. |
| 94 | *Patrick, Aaron (O) | 6-4 | 245 | 3 | Eastern Kentucky | 5/0/0/1 | FA 21 | FA JAX 20 | Recovering from freak ACL injury suffered last October. |
| 41 | Sanders, Drew (O) | 6-5 | 233 | R | Arkansas | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 DEN 23 | Primary position will be inside, but will get some glances at edge. |
| **49** | **Singleton, Alex (I)** | **6-2** | **240** | **5** | **Montana State** | **17/12** | **FA 22** | **CFA SEA 15** | **Prodigious tackle totals are now the norm for him.** |
| 40 | Strnad, Justin (I) | 6-3 | 235 | 4 | Wake Forest | 17/0 | D5 20 | D5 DEN 20 | Core special-teamer will have to prove himself again in crowded room. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 34 | Bassey, Essang (CB) | 5-10 | 190 | 4 | Wake Forest | 14/0/0/2 | FA 23 | CFA DEN 20 | Will get a chance to stick as the backup slot corner. |
| 6 | Locke, P.J. (S) | 5-10 | 202 | 4 | Texas | 16/0/0/1 | FA 23 | CFA PITT 19 | Worked as dime back much of last year; solid depth piece. |
| **27** | **Mathis, Damarri (CB)** | **5-11** | **195** | **2** | **Pittsburgh** | **16/11/0/1** | **D4 22** | **D4 DEN 22** | **Had four pass-interference flags in his first start; had none in 10 starts after that.** |
| 35 | McMillian, Ja'Quan (CB) | 5-10 | 183 | 1 | East Carolina | 1/1/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA DEN 22 | Flashed in late-season glimpse; could stick once again. |
| 37 | Moss, Riley (CB) | 6-1 | 193 | R | Iowa | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 DEN 23 | When drafted, he said Broncos see him as a "DB," but he'll get look at corner first. |
| **31** | **Simmons, Justin (S)** | **6-2** | **202** | **8** | **Boston College** | **12/12/0/1** | **D3 16** | **D3 DEN 16** | **His six-interception 2022 season was the first for a Denver safety in 26 years.** |
| 46 | Skinner, JL (S) | 6-4 | 220 | R | Boise State | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 DEN 23 | Was fourth Day-3 safety drafted by Broncos in last three years. |
| 23 | Smith, Tremon (CB/RS) | 5-11 | 190 | 6 | Central Arkansas | 17/2 | UFA,HOUS 23 | D6 KC 18 | Played over 75 percent of special-teams snaps in each of last two seasons. |
| **30** | ***Sterns, Caden (S)** | **6-1** | **207** | **3** | **Texas** | **5/3/0/2** | **D5 21** | **D5 DEN 21** | **Had two INTs in just five games last year; playmaker needs better injury luck.** |
| **2** | **Surtain II, Pat (CB)** | **6-2** | **202** | **3** | **Alabama** | **17/17** | **D1 21** | **D1 DEN 21** | **After giving up three TDs in two-week November span, he allowed just one thereafter.** |
| 32 | Turner-Yell, Delarrin (S) | 5-11 | 200 | 2 | Oklahoma | 14/0/0/3 | D5 22 | D5 DEN 22 | As a rookie, all 251 of his snaps came on special teams. |
| 21 | Williams, K'Waun (CB) | 5-9 | 185 | 8 | Pittsburgh | 14/8/0/3 | UFA,SF 22 | CFA CLV 14 | Veteran remains one of the league's most effective slot corners. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Dixon, Riley (P) | 6-4 | 221 | 7 | Syracuse | 17/0 | UFA,LAR 23 | D7 DEN 16 | Returns after posting career-high gross punting average (48.4 yards) with Rams. |
| 48 | *Fraboni, Mitchell (LS) | 6-2 | 223 | 2 | Arizona State | 4/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA HOUS 21 | Ex-USFLer showed enough in four-game fill-in stint to get longer look. |
| 8 | McManus, Brandon (K) | 6-3 | 201 | 10 | Temple | 17/0 | FA 14 | CFA IND 13 | Looks to bounce back from his most frustrating season. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (I indicates player in previous NFL camp): TE Hunter Thedford (I, Utah); T Isaiah Prince (4, Ohio State); G Parker Ferguson (2, Air Force); RB Tyreik McAllister (I, Charleston, W.Va.); DT Jordan Jackson (I, Air Force); LB Ray Wilborn (I, Ball State); CBs Faion Hicks (I, Wisconsin), Delonte Hood (Peru State); S Devon Key (I, Western Kentucky)

seems to be a good fit for what Payton wants from his linemen. But at center, the Broncos want to get more from Lloyd Cushenberry, whose season ended after eight games last year and whose form has been mixed. That said, the Broncos appear to have their stoutest starting line in some time.

**RATING: 7.5**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Broncos are counting on free-agent pickup Zach Allen to be an apples-to-apples replacement for Dre'Mont Jones, who led the team in sacks despite missing four games but wasn't brought back. D.J. Jones and Mike Purcell collectively bring a stout presence to the interior; Jones, a free-agent pickup last year, was consistently disruptive. Matt Henningsen emerged as a solid rotational piece in his 2022 rookie season, while Eyioma Uwazurike saw more action late and has some explosiveness.

**RATING: 6.5**

## LINEBACKERS

Anchoring the core of the defense are Josey Jewell and Alex Singleton, a pair of tackling machines who don't have the most open-field speed in coverage, but attack with abandon and diagnose developing plays in a hurry. At outside linebacker, the Broncos have a promising starting duo in Randy Gregory and Baron Browning. The problem is that both have struggled to stay healthy. Gregory has a long history of injuries and missed 11 games last year, while Browning missed three games in 2022 and is still refining his game. Versatile third-round pick Drew Sanders should offer depth on the inside and outside, while the Broncos also hope last year's Round 2 pick, Nik Bonitto, develops on the edge after a frustrating rookie season.

**RATING: 7**

## SECONDARY

Few safety-cornerback tandems are better than the Justin Simmons-Pat Surtain II pairing. With opposing passers opting to avoid throwing at the All-Pro Surtain, Simmons cleaned up with a league-leading, career-high six interceptions. Few safeties have Simmons' range. Fourth-round pick Damarri Mathis blossomed in the second half of 2022, allowing the Broncos to move on from Ronald Darby. Third-year playmaker Caden Sterns has a chance to lock down the safety position next to Simmons, but he must stay healthy. Slot cornerback K'Waun Williams is one of the game's best, and the Broncos thought enough of Round 3 rookie corner Riley Moss to trade away a 2024 third-round pick to move up and take him.

**RATING: 8.5**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Payton, Westhoff and coordinator Ben Kotwica wasted no time overhauling personnel, adding a new punter in Riley Dixon — who started his career in Denver seven years ago — installing Mitchell Fraboni as long snapper and adding new potential returners in Marvin Mims Jr., Marquez Callaway and Tremon Smith. Most of the team's veteran free agents will also have a special-teams role. This unit could be the most improved on the team, which would be a welcome change after several years in which the Broncos' special teams became known for mishaps. But the biggest reason for improvement could come from kicker Brandon McManus, who had an uncharacteristically frustrating 2022.

**RATING: 7**

## INTANGIBLES

The Broncos were one of the most injured teams in the NFL in recent years. Payton brought in some of his old Saints staffers to try and change that, as New Orleans was one of the least injured teams in that same span. It's just one example of sweeping organizational change that resembles the manner in which one of Payton's mentors, Bill Parcells, went about putting his stamp on a team. Parcells always got eventual results. Expect the same for Payton in Denver.

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Andrew Mason

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Former Broncos head coach (2017-18) Vance Joseph returns as defensive coordinator, which means the Broncos should emphasize man coverage and blitzing more than the zone-based scheme of the last four years. Only two defensive starters (Justin Simmons and Josey Jewell) remain from his Broncos head-coaching tenure.

2. Payton has never had a double-digit-loss season as a head coach, but he comes to a team that has lost at least 10 games in five of the last six years. What's more, that total of double-digit-loss campaigns matches Denver's total for the previous 51 years.

3. Only four of the Broncos' 13 Day 1 or Day 2 draft picks from 2018-20 remain on the roster, causing a domino effect that hurts depth. There's still plenty of roster construction left, and Payton's evaluation of the talent on hand will help define this season.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 5-12**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 12 | at Seattle | 16-17 |
| Sept. 18 | HOUSTON | 16-9 |
| Sept. 25 | SAN FRANCISCO | 11-10 |
| Oct. 2 | at Las Vegas | 23-32 |
| Oct. 6 | INDIANAPOLIS (OT) | 9-12 |
| Oct. 17 | at L.A. Chargers (OT) | 16-19 |
| Oct. 23 | N.Y. JETS | 9-16 |
| Oct. 30 | at Jacksonville | 21-17 |
| Nov. 13 | at Tennessee | 10-17 |
| Nov. 20 | LAS VEGAS (OT) | 16-22 |
| Nov. 27 | at Carolina | 10-23 |
| Dec. 4 | at Baltimore | 9-10 |
| Dec. 11 | KANSAS CITY | 28-34 |
| Dec. 18 | ARIZONA | 24-15 |
| Dec. 25 | at L.A. Rams | 14-51 |
| Jan. 1 | at Kansas City | 24-27 |
| Jan. 8 | L.A. CHARGERS | 31-28 |

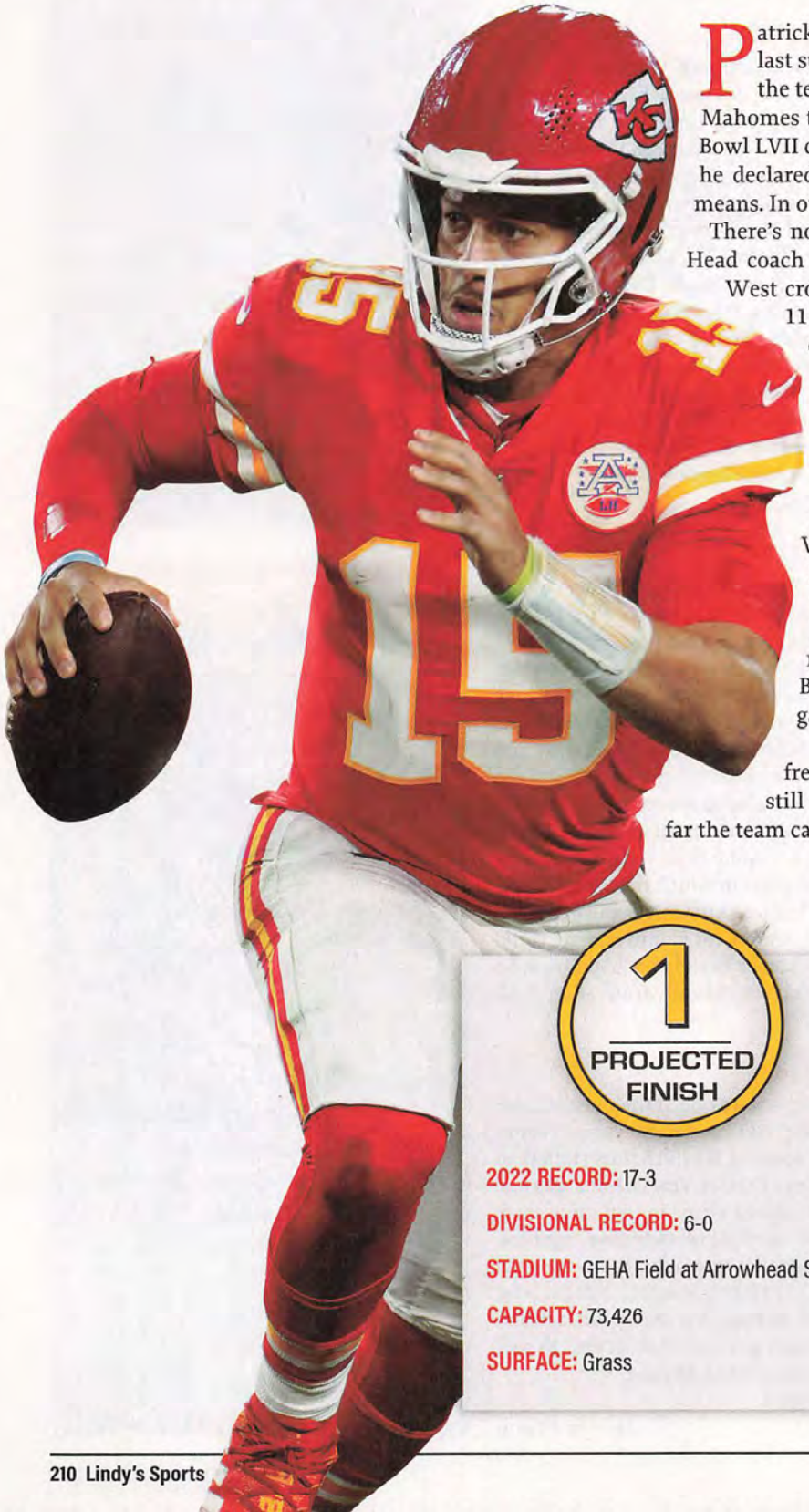
## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Mountain**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | at Arizona | TBD |
| Aug. 17-21 | at San Francisco | TBD |
| Aug. 26 | L.A. RAMS (Sat) | 7:00 |
| Sept. 10 | LAS VEGAS | 2:25 |
| Sept. 17 | WASHINGTON | 2:25 |
| Sept. 24 | at Miami | 11:00 |
| Oct. 1 | at Chicago | 11:00 |
| Oct. 8 | N.Y. JETS | 2:25 |
| Oct. 12 | at Kansas City (Thu) | 6:15 |
| Oct. 22 | GREEN BAY | 2:25 |
| Oct. 29 | KANSAS CITY | 2:25 |
| | BYE | |
| Nov. 13 | at Buffalo (Mon) | 6:15 |
| Nov. 19 | MINNESOTA | 6:20 |
| Nov. 26 | CLEVELAND | 2:05 |
| Dec. 3 | at Houston | 2:05 |
| Dec. 10 | at L.A. Chargers | 2:25 |
| Dec. 16/17 | at Detroit | TBD |
| Dec. 24 | NEW ENGLAND | 6:15 |
| Dec. 31 | L.A. CHARGERS | 2:25 |
| TBD | at Las Vegas | TBD |

# KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

## Chiefs Remain the NFL's Cream of the Crop



Patrick Mahomes and his Chiefs teammates heard the chatter last summer. In the wake of the Tyreek Hill trade to Miami, the team's offense was no longer a feared juggernaut. When Mahomes took the stage in February following the team's Super Bowl LVII championship parade through downtown Kansas City, he declared, "I got to be honest; I don't know what rebuilding means. In our rebuilding year, we're world champs."

There's no talk of rebuilding in Kansas City this time around. Head coach Andy Reid's squad seeks its eighth consecutive AFC West crown, which would trail only New England's NFL-best 11 straight division titles (2009-2019). The club can also extend its own record-breaking streak of hosting conference championship games to six seasons in pursuit of its bid for a third Super Bowl title in five years.

What obstacles lie in the club's path? General manager Brett Veach must replace eight veteran players who departed via free agency, including five starters in offensive tackles Orlando Brown Jr. and Andrew Wylie, wide receivers JuJu Smith-Schuster and Mecole Hardman, plus safety Juan Thornhill. The schedule also includes eight games against playoff teams from last season, including an AFC Championship Game rematch against Cincinnati and a meeting with Super Bowl runner-up Philadelphia. The Chiefs also host a game in Germany this season.

The Chiefs spent the past two offseasons investing in free agency and the draft to shore up the defense, yet it's still the reigning MVP Mahomes who will determine how far the team can go in 2023.

**Patrick Mahomes**
Photo by Joe Robbins

**1**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 17-3

**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 6-0

**STADIUM:** GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 73,426

**SURFACE:** Grass

### WINS PER YEAR

## AT A GLANCE

**ONE ARROWHEAD DRIVE**
**KANSAS CITY, MO 64129**
**(816) 920-9300**
**WWW.CHIEFS.COM**

**TRAINING CAMP:** Missouri Western State University; St. Joseph, MO
**HEAD COACH:** Andy Reid
- 11th season with Chiefs
- 129-52 overall; 12-7 postseason
- 25th season as NFL head coach
- 269-154-1 overall; 22-16 postseason

**CHAIRMAN/CEO:** Clark Hunt
**PRESIDENT:** Mark Donovan
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Brett Veach
**ASSISTANT GM:** Mike Borgonzi
**VP FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:** Brandt Tilis
**SR. DIR. PLAYER PERSONNEL:** Mike Bradway
**DIR. PLAYER PERS./COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Ryne Nutt
**CO-DIRECTORS COLLEGE SCOUTING:**
David Hinson, Pat Sperduto
**SR. COLLEGE SCOUTING EXECUTIVE:** Terry Delp
**DIR. PLAYER PERS./PRO SCOUTING:** Tim Terry
**SENIOR PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE:** Willie Davis

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Matt Nagy | Offensive coordinator | 14 | 7 |
| David Girardi | Quarterbacks | 6 | 6 |
| Dan Williams | Off. QC/asst. QBs | 5 | 5 |
| Joe Bleymaier | Pass game coordinator | 8 | 8 |
| Andy Heck | Offensive line | 20 | 11 |
| Corey Matthaei | Assistant line | 16 | 11 |
| Todd Pinkston | Running backs | 1 | 1 |
| Porter Ellett | Asst. running backs | 7 | 7 |
| Connor Embree | Receivers | 5 | 5 |
| Tom Melvin | Tight ends | 25 | 11 |
| Kevin Saxton | Offensive assistant | 1 | 1 |
| Steve Spagnuolo | Defensive coordinator | 25 | 5 |
| Joe Cullen | Defensive line | 17 | 2 |
| Terry Bradden | Assistant line | 7 | 7 |
| Brendan Daly | Linebackers | 18 | 5 |
| Ken Flajole | Outside linebackers | 24 | 3 |
| Dave Merritt | Defensive backs | 23 | 5 |
| Donald D'Alesio | Safeties | 3 | 3 |
| Alex Whittingham | Def. quality control | 6 | 6 |
| Rod Wilson | Defensive assistant | 5 | 5 |
| Dave Toub | *Special teams coord. | 23 | 11 |
| Andy Hill | Asst. special teams | 4 | 4 |
| Ryan Reynolds | #Head. S&C | 8 | 8 |
| Greg Carbin | Assistant S&C | 5 | 5 |
| Spencer Reid | Assistant S&C | 3 | 3 |
| Nick Casseta | Assistant S&C | 1 | 1 |
| Rick Burkholder | VP/sports med./perf. | 31 | 11 |

* Assistant head coach # Director sports science

## CHIEFS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/21 | Trent McDuffie | CB | Starter |
| 2021 | 2/58 | Nick Bolton | LB | Starter |
| 2020 | 1/32 | Clyde Edwards-Helaire | RB | Backup |
| 2019 | 2/56 | Mecole Hardman | WR | Jets |
| 2018 | 2/46 | Breeland Speaks | DE | FA |

## COACHING

One of the league's most stable coaching staffs underwent a bit of retooling this offseason. Eric Bieniemy, offensive coordinator for the team's last three Super Bowl trips, departed for Washington. His replacement was also his predecessor, however, as former Bears head coach Matt Nagy returns to the job. New faces on the staff include running backs coach Todd Pinkston, who spent six seasons as a wide receiver for Reid in Philadelphia. Another key departure behind the scenes was the retirement of strength coach Barry Rubin, who spent the past 13 seasons on Reid's staff, including 10 in Kansas City. On the defensive side of the ball, coordinator Steve Spagnuolo and his entire staff return intact.

**RATING: 9.5**

## QUARTERBACKS

In winning regular-season MVP honors on his way to a Super Bowl championship, Mahomes became the first player since Kurt Warner in the 1999 season to pull off that feat. He also led the league in passing yards and touchdown passes, while the Chiefs ranked No. 1 in scoring, total yards, yards per play and many more. Most frightening for NFL opponents, Mahomes showcased improved decision-making and a willingness to take what defenses give him, as evidenced by the lowest intended air yards per pass of his career (7.2 yards) and a new career-low for bad pass percentage (15.4 percent). The retirement of Chad Henne paved the way for the addition of Blaine Gabbert as the team's veteran backup after three years as the understudy for Tom Brady. Strong-armed Shane Buechele is also in the mix for backing up Mahomes, and don't be surprised if the team finds a place for Chris Oladokun as a proficient scout-team quarterback.

**RATING: 9.5**

## RUNNING BACKS

Running-back-by-committee helped the Chiefs put up 1,970 yards on the ground last season while averaging 4.7 yards per clip. Rookie Isiah Pacheco nearly proved Veach clairvoyant after the general manager predicted a seventh-round draft pick could have a 1,000-yard season in 2022. He had 830. Pacheco supplanted former first-round draft pick Clyde Edwards-Helaire as the starter in Week 7 and never looked back. Yet, it was journeyman Jerick McKinnon who delivered the most explosiveness out of the club's

## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

Will head coach Andy Reid unleash the beast in RB **Isiah Pacheco**? Through the first eight games of his rookie season, Pacheco averaged only six touches per game. During the final nine regular-season games and three playoff games, he averaged 15 touches per game, finishing up strong with 830 rushing yards, not to mention a Super Bowl ring. An even better sophomore campaign could be in store for an encore. ... A bust in New York, former first-round pick WR **Kadarius Toney** had his share of highlights after being dealt in-season to Kansas City. With an entire offseason and training camp to get acclimated with Patrick Mahomes, he possesses the talent to become one of the most improved players in the NFL this season. ... The Chiefs' first-round pick from a year ago, DE **George Karlaftis** has also demonstrated signs of living up to the hype. Arrowhead Kingdom should be excited by the fact that legend Tamba Hali took Karlaftis under his wing during the offseason, which included rigorous, early morning jiu jitsu workouts. With improved hand combat and technique to pair with his brute strength, Karlaftis is primed to reach new heights. ... Despite picking late in the draft on a yearly basis, Kansas City general manager Brett Veach continues to stockpile excellent young talent in the pipeline.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

**HARRISON BUTKER**

A high-ankle sprain in last year's season opener turned the 2022 campaign into a nightmare for the seven-year veteran, who slumped to the lowest field-goal success rate of his career at only 75 percent. The Chiefs maintain faith Butker can regain the form that a year ago had him trailing only Justin Tucker as the most accurate field-goal kicker in NFL history. The 28-year-old showed signs of breaking out of his slump in the postseason, connecting on 6-of-7 attempts. He bounced back from a 42-yard miss in Super Bowl LVII to convert a 27-yard kick for the go-ahead score in the title game. Butker may have a shorter leash in 2023, however, especially if struggles on extra points continue.

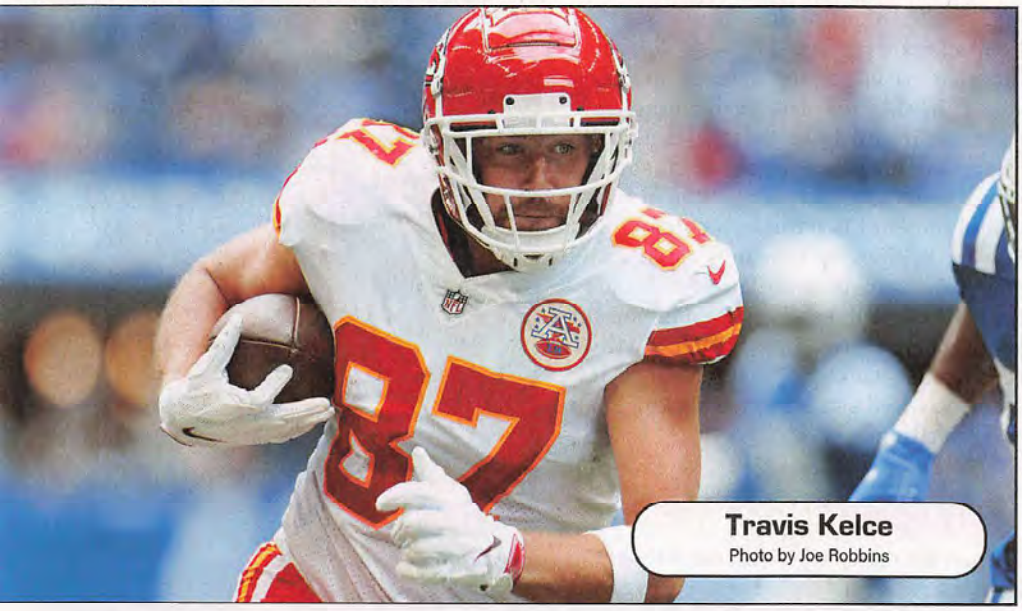
# CHIEFS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 81 | Bell, Blake (TE) | 6-6 | 252 | 10 | Oklahoma | 3/1/0/0 | UFA,DALL 21 | D4 SF 15 | Chiefs looking to get "Belldozer" healthy again as a backup TE and short-yardage QB. |
| 80 | Blanton, Kendall (TE) | 6-6 | 262 | 3 | Missouri | 4/0/0/2 | FA 23 | CFA LAR 19 | Earned back-to-back Super Bowl rings; making another bid to stick with hometown club. |
| 88 | Fortson, Jody (TE) | 6-6 | 226 | 3 | Valdosta State | 13/1/0/1 | FA 21 | CFA KC 19 | Four TDs in 14 career receptions shows red-zone skills, but Fortson ready for more. |
| 83 | Gray, Noah (TE) | 6-3 | 240 | 3 | Duke | 17/8 | D5 21 | D5 KC 21 | His 28 catches for 299 yards best for second-season Chiefs TE since Kelce in 2014. |
| | James Jr., Richie | 5-9 | 185 | 6 | Middle Tennessee | 17/4 | UFA,NYG 23 | D7 SF 18 | Career highs with 57 catches for 569 yards in contract year last season with Giants. |
| **87** | **Kelce, Travis (TE)** | **6-5** | **250** | **11** | **Cincinnati** | **17/17** | **D3 13** | **D3 KC 13** | **Played 80% of snaps in 2022 as Chiefs try to limit future Hall of Famer's workload.** |
| **24** | **Moore, Skyy** | **5-10** | **195** | **2** | **Western Michigan** | **16/3/0/1** | **D2 22** | **D2 KC 22** | **Elusive with ball in space; should see larger role with departure of Mecole Hardman.** |
| 4 | Rice, Rashee | 6-1 | 204 | R | Southern Methodist | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 KC 23 | Chiefs coveted his size, strength, but ability to beat zone coverages his best trait. |
| 85 | Ross III, John | 5-11 | 194 | 6 | Washington | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D1 CIN 17 | Drafted No. 9 overall in 2017; one spot ahead of Mahomes, but injuries held him back. |
| 6 | *Ross, Justyn | 6-4 | 210 | 2 | Clemson | 0/0/0/0 | CFA 22 | CFA KC 22 | Foot injury sidelined him last year, but size, skillset tantalizing in Chiefs offense. |
| 82 | Smith-Marsette, Ihmir (RS) | 6-1 | 185 | 3 | Iowa | 7/0/0/1 | FA 23 | D5 MINN 21 | Tough pass-catcher needs to improve return game to make strong roster bid. |
| **19** | **Toney, Kadarius** | **6-0** | **193** | **3** | **Florida** | **9/5/0/8** | **T,NYG 22** | **D1 NYG 21** | **"Corn Dog" route made him a Super Bowl hero; now he looks for larger role on offense.** |
| **11** | **Valdes-Scantling, Marquez** | **6-4** | **206** | **6** | **South Florida** | **17/11** | **UFA,GB 22** | **D5 GB 18** | **Adds strong veteran presence to young receiver group, but needs more production.** |
| 84 | Watson, Justin | 6-2 | 215 | 6 | Pennsylvania | 17/5 | FA 22 | D5 TB 18 | Versatile pass-catcher ranked No. 3 in snaps among team's receivers a year ago. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 73 | Allegretti, Nick (C) | 6-4 | 310 | 5 | Illinois | 17/3 | D7 19 | D7 KC 19 | Starting-caliber reserve at three interior line positions with 12 starts in 57 games. |
| **52** | **Humphrey, Creed (C)** | **6-4** | **302** | **3** | **Oklahoma** | **17/17** | **D2 21** | **D2 KC 21** | **Second-team All-Pro last season charged with only one sack allowed in two seasons.** |
| 75 | Kinnard, Darian (G/T) | 6-5 | 322 | 2 | Kentucky | 1/0/2/14 | D5 22 | D5 KC 22 | Spent rookie season adding guard to his resume'; comfortable anywhere on the line. |
| 64 | Morris, Wanya (T) | 6-6 | 307 | R | Oklahoma | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 KC 23 | Should be in the mix as a potential starter with left- and right-tackle potential. |
| **77** | **Niang, Lucas (RT)** | **6-6** | **315** | **3** | **Texas Christian** | **7/0/0/0** | **D3 20** | **D3 KC 20** | **Returned from patella injury in backup role, but aiming to regain starting job.** |
| 61 | Reiter, Austin (C) | 6-3 | 301 | 7 | South Florida | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D7 WSH 15 | Savvy veteran can play all three interior positions and adds positive leadership. |
| | Smith, Donovan (T) | 6-6 | 338 | 9 | Penn State | 13/13/0/4 | FA 23 | D2 TB 15 | Elbow injury zapped his strength last season, but a reliable starter if regains form. |
| **65** | **Smith, Trey (RG)** | **6-6** | **321** | **3** | **Tennessee** | **16/16/0/1** | **D6 21** | **D6 KC 21** | **Quickly building a reputation as one of the most tenacious downfield blockers in NFL.** |
| **74** | **Taylor, Jawaan (LT)** | **6-5** | **330** | **5** | **Florida** | **17/17** | **UFA,JAX 23** | **D2 JAX 19** | **Started every game last four seasons with Jaguars; could move to left tackle in KC.** |
| **62** | **Thuney, Joe (LG)** | **6-5** | **304** | **8** | **North Carolina State** | **15/15/0/2** | **UFA,NE 21** | **D3 NE 16** | **"The Terminator" does everything right; earned long overdue Pro-Bowl nod in 2022.** |
| 70 | Wanogho, Prince Tega (T) | 6-5 | 308 | 3 | Auburn | 17/0 | FA 21 | D6 PHA 20 | Latecomer to football from Nigeria; has high ceiling and continued room for growth. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | Edwards-Helaire, Clyde | 5-7 | 207 | 4 | Louisiana State | 10/6/0/0 | D1 20 | D1 KC 20 | Injuries cost him 14 games past two season while averaging 4.3 yards per carry. |
| 1 | McKinnon, Jerick | 5-9 | 209 | 10 | Georgia Southern | 17/0 | FA 23 | D3 MINN 14 | Thrives as KC's top backfield threat in passing game with 10 scores last season. |
| **10** | **Pacheco, Isiah** | **5-10** | **216** | **2** | **Rutgers** | **17/11** | **D7 22** | **D7 KC 22** | **Hard, angry runner played through injuries in averaging 4.9 yards per attempt.** |
| 29 | Perine, La'Mical | 5-11 | 216 | 3 | Florida | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D4 NYJ 20 | Cousin Samaje Perine terrorized Chiefs with Bengals, but seeks to make his own mark. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Buechele, Shane | 6-0 | 210 | 3 | Southern Methodist | 0/0/0/17 | FA 21 | CFA KC 21 | Big-armed passer who has shown flashes in preseason; in the mix for backup QB role. |
| | Gabbert, Blaine | 6-5 | 235 | 13 | Missouri | 1/0/16/0 | UFA,TB 23 | D1 JAX 11 | Adds veteran voice to QB room Chiefs desire for Mahomes, who should fit the offense. |
| **15** | **Mahomes II, Patrick** | **6-2** | **225** | **7** | **Texas Tech** | **17/17** | **D1 17** | **D1 KC 17** | **There's not much the two-time Super Bowl MVP can't do, and third title on his radar.** |
| 14 | Oladokun, Chris | 6-2 | 195 | 1 | South Dakota State | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D7 PITT 22 | Athletic passer with strong football IQ who showed solid progress on practice squad. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 97 | Anudike-Uzomah, Felix (E) | 6-4 | 255 | R | Kansas State | 0/0 | D1 23 | D1 KC 23 | Quickness, tenacity; draws early comparisons to former Chiefs Pro Bowler Tamba Hali. |
| 99 | Coburn, Keondre (T) | 6-2 | 332 | R | Texas | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 KC 23 | Mountainous middle man with deceiving quickness who can get after the passer. |
| | Cowart, Byron (T) | 6-3 | 300 | 5 | Maryland | 17/0 | UFA,IND 23 | D5 NE 19 | Injury cost him 2021 season, but bounced back to play 17 games with Colts in 2022. |
| 51 | Danna, Michael (E) | 6-2 | 257 | 4 | Michigan | 13/0/0/4 | D5 20 | D5 KC 20 | Tireless, relentless pass rusher; his motor and tenacity drove him to 5.0 sacks. |
| 94 | Herring, Malik (E) | 6-3 | 275 | 2 | Georgia | 7/0/0/10 | CFA 21 | CFA KC 21 | Long, powerful edge rusher; offers plenty of potential with his size and strength. |
| 92 | Hoskins, Phil (T) | 6-5 | 315 | 3 | Kentucky | 5/0/0/3 | FA 23 | D7 CARO 21 | Good size and length; has quickness, agility to succeed under DL coach Joe Cullen. |
| **95** | **Jones, Chris (T)** | **6-6** | **310** | **8** | **Mississippi State** | **17/17** | **D2 16** | **D2 KC 16** | **Made his case last season as one of the NFL's most dominant defensive players.** |
| 59 | Kaindoh, Joshua (E) | 6-6 | 260 | 3 | Florida State | 0/0/0/17 | D4 21 | D4 KC 21 | Plenty of athleticism and explosiveness, but hasn't yet translated into production. |
| **56** | **Karlaftis, George (E)** | **6-4** | **263** | **2** | **Purdue** | **17/17** | **D1 22** | **D1 KC 22** | **Powerful edge rusher finished second on Chiefs with 6.0 sacks as a rookie.** |
| **91** | **Nnadi, Derrick (T)** | **6-1** | **317** | **6** | **Florida State** | **17/17** | **D3 18** | **D3 KC 18** | **Reliable run-stuffing defender has missed only one regular-season game in five years.** |
| **90** | **Omenihu, Charles (E)** | **6-5** | **280** | **5** | **Texas** | **17/3** | **UFA,SF 23** | **D5 HOUS 19** | **Delivered a career-high 4.5 sacks for 49ers, but paid as a high-end rusher for KC now.** |
| 71 | Shelton, Danny (T) | 6-2 | 345 | 8 | Washington | 1/0/0/0 | FA 23 | D1 CLV 15 | Surprisingly played only one game for KC, which crazes a true nose tackle like him. |
| 53 | Thompson, BJ (E) | 6-6 | 243 | R | Stephen F. Austin | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 KC 23 | Quick, long and lean; may need to add weight for NFL, but potential remains high. |
| 98 | *Wharton, Tershawn (E) | 6-1 | 280 | 4 | Missouri S&T | 5/0/0/0 | CFA 20 | CFA KC 20 | Interior rusher looking for comeback after a torn ACL ended his 2022 campaign early. |
| 96 | Wise, Daniel (T) | 6-3 | 285 | 3 | Kansas | 11/1/1/3 | FA 23 | CFA DALL 19 | Flexible pass rusher who can lineup anywhere; maybe best suited as third-down rusher. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **32** | **Bolton, Nick (M)** | **5-11** | **237** | **3** | **Missouri** | **17/17** | **D2 21** | **D2 KC 21** | **Emerging leader of KC defense; can become elite with improvement in pass coverage.** |
| **54** | **Chenal, Leo (O)** | **6-3** | **250** | **2** | **Wisconsin** | **17/8** | **D3 22** | **D3 KC 22** | **Physical, downhill tackler improved during rookie season, especially in pass game.** |
| 43 | Cochrane, Jack (M) | 6-3 | 236 | 2 | South Dakota | 15/0/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA KC 22 | Strong four-phase special-teams performer who needs more seasoning at linebacker. |
| **50** | **Gay, Willie (O)** | **6-1** | **243** | **4** | **Mississippi State** | **13/13/0/0** | **D2 20** | **D2 KC 20** | **Speedy weakside 'backer who can cover and get after the quarterback; an energy giver.** |
| 23 | Tranquill, Drue (M) | 6-2 | 234 | 4 | Notre Dame | 17/16 | UFA,LAC 23 | D4 LAC 19 | Versatile defender who will back up Bolton at Mike and could start on the outside. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | Bootle, Dicaprio (CB) | 5-10 | 180 | 1 | Nebraska | 4/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA KC 21 | Reliable special-teams player and physical defender with inside/outside flexiblity. |
| 26 | Bush, Deon (S) | 6-0 | 200 | 7 | Miami | 16/0/0/1 | UFA,CHI 22 | D4 CHI 16 | Became a special-teams leader for KC last season, but most impressed with tough play. |
| 27 | Conner, Chamarri (S) | 6-0 | 202 | R | Virginia Tech | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 KC 23 | Expected to start on special teams early and strong candidate for dime defense role. |
| **6** | **Cook, Bryan (S)** | **6-1** | **206** | **2** | **Cincinnati** | **16/1/0/1** | **D2 22** | **D2 KC 22** | **Heat-seeking missile in the backfield; look for breakout campaign as starter in 2023.** |
| 21 | Edwards, Mike (S) | 5-10 | 205 | 5 | Kentucky | 13/12/0/4 | UFA,TB 23 | D3 TB 19 | Reliable defender who has missed only eight tackles in the past three seasons. |
| 13 | Johnson, Nazeeh (S) | 5-10 | 199 | 2 | Marshall | 11/0/0/3 | FA 22 | D7 KC 22 | Converted safety with versatility held up well as a backup. Special teams a strength. |
| 31 | Jones, Nic (CB) | 6-0 | 189 | R | Ball State | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 KC 23 | Long, lean defender with quickness who could thrive with refined technique. |
| **22** | **McDuffie, Trent (CB)** | **5-11** | **193** | **2** | **Washington** | **11/11/0/0** | **D1 22** | **D1 KC 22** | **Allowed only 53% pass completions in coverage as a rookie; potential shutdown corner.** |
| **20** | **Reid, Justin (S)** | **6-1** | **207** | **5** | **Stanford** | **17/17** | **UFA,HOUS 22** | **D3 HOUS 18** | **Smart, savvy veteran stepped into leadership role for young secondary group.** |
| **38** | **Sneed, L'Jarius (CB)** | **6-1** | **192** | **4** | **Louisiana Tech** | **17/17** | **D4 20** | **D4 KC 20** | **Physical, hard-hitting corner delivered career-high 108 tackles; only five misses.** |
| 35 | Watson Jaylen (CB) | 6-2 | 197 | 2 | Washington State | 16/6/1/0 | D7 22 | D7 KC 22 | His 99-yard pick-six against Chargers was highlight of strong rookie campaign. |
| 2 | Williams, Joshua (CB) | 6-3 | 193 | 2 | Fayetteville State | 17/4 | D4 22 | D4 KC 22 | Chiefs protected him at times last season, but proved he's ready for larger role. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Butker, Harrison (K) | 6-4 | 199 | 7 | Georgia Tech | 13/0/0/4 | FA 17 | D7 CARO 17 | One of the most-reliable field-goal kickers in NFL history needs bounce-back season. |
| 5 | Townsend, Tommy (P) | 6-1 | 191 | 4 | Florida | 17/0 | CFA 20 | CFA KC 20 | Earned Pro-Bowl honors thanks to career-high 50.4 punting average and 45.6-yard net. |
| 41 | Winchester, James (LS) | 6-3 | 209 | 9 | Oklahoma | 17/0 | FA 15 | CFA PHA 13 | Key component of the team's experienced specialists who keeps this group together. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; FFA=Franchise Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Ty Fryfogle (1, Indiana), Cornell Powell (1, Clemson), Nikko Remigio (Fresno State), Tyrone Scott (Missouri State); WR/RB Jerrion Ealy (1, Mississippi); TE Matt Bushman (1, Brigham Young); Ts Anderson Hardy (Appalachian State), Blake Haynes (Tarleton State); G/C Jerome Carvin (Tennessee); C Michael Caliendo (1, Western Michigan); OL Chukwuebuka Jason Godrick (Nigeria); RB Deneric Prince (Tulsa); DE Truman Jones (Harvard); LBs Cole Christiansen (1, Army), Cam Jones (Indiana), Isaiah Moore (North Carolina State); CBs Montrae Braswell (Missouri State), Reese Taylor (Purdue), Anthony Witherstone (Merrimack); Ss Anthony Cook (Texas), S Martez Manuel (Missouri); DB Isaiah Norman (Marshall)



Travis Kelce
Photo by Joe Robbins

backfield, hauling in 56 catches for 512 yards and nine touchdowns while emerging as one of the league's most dangerous red-zone targets in the second half of the season. After Michael Burton signed a free-agent deal with Denver, the Chiefs may not carry a true fullback for the first time since Reid's arrival in 2013.

RATING: 7.5

## RECEIVERS

Nothing is certain but death, taxes and Travis Kelce eclipsing 1,000 yards receiving, which he's done for seven straight seasons. After Kelce, the team's top returning pass-catcher is Marquez Valdes-Scantling who corralled 42 passes for 687 yards and two scores. The team is also leaning on a strong second season from Skyy Moore, who caught 22 passes for 250 yards. The hype train is strong for Kadarius Toney, who chipped in 14 passes for 171 yards and two touchdowns in a limited role after his trade-deadline arrival from New York. If Toney can stay healthy, his electric play is comparable to Tyreek Hill. Rookie Rashee Rice may play a larger-than-expected role this season. The club has yet to develop a strong complementary No. 2 tight end behind Kelce, but Noah Gray and Jody Fortson should continue to see more opportunities.

RATING: 7.5

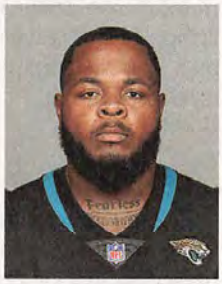
## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Chiefs ranked third in allowing only 26 sacks last season, but how much credit belongs to the offensive line versus the elusiveness of Mahomes? Only three of those sacks were charged to the trio of Joe Thuney (one), Creed Humphrey (zero) and Trey Smith (two), illustrating where the strength of the team's pass protection lies.

Departing free agents Orlando Brown Jr. and Andrew Wylie combined for 13 sacks allowed last season. The Chiefs believe former Jacksonville right tackle Jawaan Taylor has flexibility to move to the left side, and they also bet on longtime Tampa Bay left tackle Donovan Smith. Third-year veteran Lucas Niang and rookie Wanya Morris expect to engage in the one true training

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

**KEY ADDITION:**



**T Jawaan Taylor**
After allowing Orlando Brown Jr. to walk away this offseason, the Chiefs are banking on Taylor justifying their $80 million, four-year gamble the fifth-year veteran can make the transition from right tackle to the blind side.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**
DT Byron Cowart, S Mike Edwards, QB Blaine Gabbert, DT Phil Hoskins, WR Richie James, DE Charles Omenihu, T Donovan Smith, LB Drue Tranquill

**KEY LOSS:**
**WR JuJu Smith-Schuster (16/14)***
It's the second straight season the Chiefs must replace their leading wide receiver. Breakout seasons from Kadarius Toney, Skyy Moore and Rashee Rice would help, but the biggest burden rests on the shoulders of Marquez Valdes-Scantling.

**KEY LOSSES:**
**T Orlando Brown Jr. (17/17)**, FB Michael Burton (17/0), **DE Frank Clark (15/15)**, DE Carlos Dunlap (17/2), WR Mecole Hardman (8/5), LB Darius Harris (17/4), QB Chad Henne (3/0), RB Ronald Jones II (6/0), DT Khalen Saunders (16/0), **S Juan Thornhill (16/16)**, DT Brandon Williams (5/0), **T Andrew Wylie (17/17)***
**Total games played/started lost: 170/90**

**STARTERS RETURNING**
17: 8 offense, 9 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS

ISIAH PACHECO

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Patrick Mahomes | 648 | 435 | 5250 | 41 | 12 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Isiah Pacheco | 170 | 830 | 4.9 | 5 |
| Patrick Mahomes | 61 | 358 | 5.9 | 4 |
| Clyde Edwards-Helaire | 71 | 302 | 4.3 | 3 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Travis Kelce | 110 | 1338 | 12.2 | 12 |
| JuJu Smith-Schuster | 78 | 933 | 12.0 | 3 |
| Marquez Valdes-Scantling | 42 | 687 | 16.4 | 2 |
| Jerick McKinnon | 56 | 512 | 9.1 | 9 |

**Kicking**: Butker 38/41 XPs, 18/24 FGs, 92 points
**Tackles**: Bolton 180, Sneed 108, Gay 88
**Sacks**: Jones 15.5, Karlaftis 6, Danna 5, Clark 5
**INTs**: Thornhill 3, Sneed 3, Bolton 2

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 413.6 | 1 |
| Passing Offense | 297.8 | 1 |
| Rushing Offense | 115.9 | 20 |
| Points | 29.2 | 1 |
| Sacked | 26 | 3 |
| 3rd Down % | 48.7 | 2 |
| **Defense** | | |
| Total Defense | 328.2 | 11 |
| Passing Defense | 220.9 | 18 |
| Rushing Defense | 107.2 | 8 |
| Points Allowed | 21.7 | 16 |
| INTs | 11 | T-21 |
| Sacks | 55 | 2 |
| Turnover Diff. | -3 | T-22 |

camp position battle for the right-tackle role. Strong depth pieces include all-purpose interior lineman Nick Allegretti, swing tackle Prince Tega Wanogho and promising lineman Darian Kinnard, who offers guard and tackle flexibility.

RATING: 8

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The retooling of the team's defensive line started last year with George Karlaftis, who ranked second on the team with six sacks. The Chiefs dipped into the free-agent market for Charles Omenihu, who will start opposite Karlaftis. It's a young group on the edge where 2023 first-rounder Felix Anudike-Uzomah should split time with Mike Danna. The Chiefs have placed a focus on speed and quickness in its acquisition of defensive linemen in the draft, including athletic edge BJ Thompson and bruising nose tackle Keondre Coburn in this year's class.

Defensive line coach Joe Cullen preaches getting up field quickly, and he has a roster that should get that done. The jewel of this unit remains Chris Jones (15.5 sacks), who delivered an All-Pro campaign last season and is arguably one of the league's premier interior rushers along with Aaron Donald.

RATING: 8

## LINEBACKERS

Free agent Drue Tranquill is the grizzled veteran of this group at the ripe old age of 27 with none of the team's starting linebackers over age 25. Nick Bolton is the quarterback of the defense and blossomed in this role last year, piling up a franchise-record 180 total tackles. Equally important, his pass coverage skills showed improvement, and another step forward would cement his status as a potential Pro Bowler. Willie Gay Jr. brings speed while Leo Chenal adds downhill power. The addition of Tranquill, however, is an important game-changer providing the club with a sure-handed tackler (146 total stops last season) as well as a seasoned backup at all three positions.

RATING: 6.5

## SECONDARY

There are reasons for excitement about the Kansas City secondary led by L'Jarius Sneed and Justin Reid. Sneed is one of the league's most physical corners and is adept at run defense and blitzing. The Chiefs picked up a quartet of rookie cornerbacks to join him last season with Trent McDuffie, Jaylen Watson and Joshua Williams all delivering strong performances. Reid provided strong leadership in his Chiefs debut last season, and the addition of veteran Mike Edwards deepens the bench. But much is riding on the progress of second-year safety Bryan Cook, who will likely replace Juan Thornhill on the back end of the defense.

RATING: 7

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Outside the All-Pro season for punter Tommy Townsend, 2022 was a nightmare for special-teams coordinator Dave Toub due to slumping kicker Harrison Butker, Moore struggling with ball security and rookies or free agents accounting for 44 percent of the club's special-teams snaps. Pacheco may yield his job as punt returner due to his larger role on offense. Toney is a likely candidate for both kickoff and punt-return roles, and Rice might also figure in the mix. If the veteran trio of Townsend, Butker and long snapper James Winchester can solidify the kicking game, there's room for improvement thanks to young players gaining valuable experience a year ago.

RATING: 7

## INTANGIBLES

The Chiefs own a 64-18 regular-season record since Mahomes became the club's starting quarterback in 2018, piling up 10 more wins than New Orleans in second place. No team has more postseason experience in the last five years, and Mahomes is already inside the top 10 for career passing touchdowns with 35 in the playoffs.

RATING: Plus-1

— Matt Derrick

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Kansas City's offensive line features new starters at both tackle positions, but the strength of this unit is the trio of guards Joe Thuney and Trey Smith, and center Creed Humphrey. This group's ability to build chemistry quickly is key to providing the mobile Mahomes with a reliable pocket.

2. Second-year defensive backs including Trent McDuffie, Jaylen Watson, Joshua Williams and Bryan Cook should get tested early this season as offensive coordinators seek to attack any deficiencies they found in the offseason. This group's response to that challenge is key to an improving defense.

3. Chris Jones and his 15.5 sacks helped the Chiefs rank No. 2 in the league with 55 a year ago. If the defense wants to replicate that performance, Jones needs to stay healthy while first-round draft picks George Karlaftis (2022) and Felix Anudike-Uzomah (2023) fulfill their potential.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 17-3**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | at Arizona | 44-21 |
| Sept. 15 | L.A. CHARGERS | 27-24 |
| Sept. 25 | at Indianapolis | 17-20 |
| Oct. 2 | at Tampa Bay | 41-31 |
| Oct. 10 | LAS VEGAS | 30-29 |
| Oct. 16 | BUFFALO | 20-24 |
| Oct. 23 | at San Francisco | 44-23 |
| Nov. 6 | TENNESSEE (OT) | 20-17 |
| Nov. 13 | JACKSONVILLE | 27-17 |
| Nov. 20 | at L.A. Chargers | 30-27 |
| Nov. 27 | L.A. RAMS | 26-10 |
| Dec. 4 | at Cincinnati | 24-27 |
| Dec. 11 | at Denver | 34-28 |
| Dec. 18 | at Houston (OT) | 30-24 |
| Dec. 24 | SEATTLE | 24-10 |
| Jan. 1 | DENVER | 27-24 |
| Jan. 7 | at Las Vegas | 31-13 |
| Jan. 21 | JACKSONVILLE (Sat) | 27-20 |
| Jan. 29 | CINCINNATI | 23-20 |
| Feb. 12 | Philadelphia | 38-35 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Central**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | at New Orleans | TBD |
| Aug. 17-21 | at Arizona | TBD |
| Aug. 24027 | CLEVELAND | TBD |
| Sept. 7 | DETROIT (Thu) | 7:20 |
| Sept. 17 | at Jacksonville | 12:00 |
| Sept. 24 | CHICAGO | 3:25 |
| Oct. 1 | at N.Y. Jets | 7:20 |
| Oct. 8 | at Minnesota | 3:25 |
| Oct. 12 | DENVER (Thu) | 7:15 |
| Oct. 22 | L.A. CHARGERS | 3:25 |
| Oct. 29 | at Denver | 3:25 |
| Nov. 5 | Miami (Germany) | 8:30 |
| | BYE | |
| Nov. 20 | PHILADELPHIA (Mon) | 7:15 |
| Nov. 26 | at Las Vegas | 3:25 |
| Dec. 3 | at Green Bay | 7:20 |
| Dec. 10 | BUFFALO | 3:25 |
| Dec. 18 | at New England (Mon) | 7:15 |
| Dec. 25 | LAS VEGAS (Mon) | 12:00 |
| Dec. 31 | CINCINNATI | 3:25 |
| TBD | at L.A. Chargers | TBD |

# LAS VEGAS RAIDERS

## Big Raiders Change Without Derek Carr

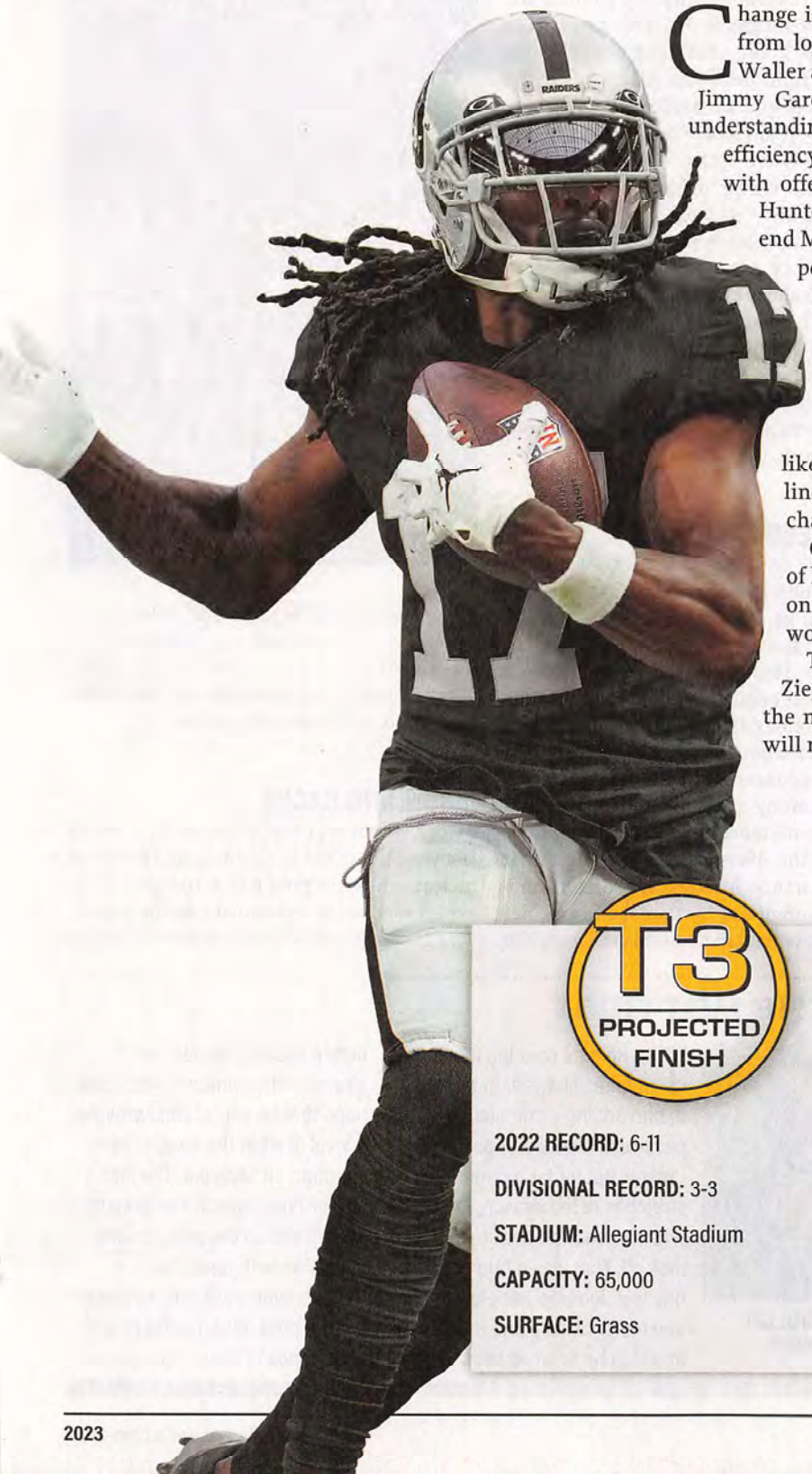
Change is in the air in Las Vegas, where the Raiders moved on from long-time quarterback Derek Carr and tight end Darren Waller and are in the middle of a defensive overhaul.

Jimmy Garoppolo replaces Carr, and his winning pedigree and understanding of Josh McDaniels' offense potentially mean more efficiency in the red zone and on third down. If so, and coupled with offensive weapons like Davante Adams, Jakobi Meyers, Hunter Renfrow, Josh Jacobs, Austin Hooper and rookie tight end Michael Mayer, the Raiders have more than enough firepower to score not only a suitable level of points, but also protect a defense that is currently a construction site.

A more efficient offense helps a defense that features the Pro-Bowl level pass-rush ability of Maxx Crosby, but little else in terms of known production. On the other hand, if rookie defensive end Tyree Wilson is as good as advertised, and young players like cornerback Nate Hobbs, safety Tre'von Moehrig and linebacker Divine Deablo take steps forward, fortunes can change in a hurry.

On a micro level, maybe that means turning a handful of last year's nine one-score losses into wins and knocking on the door of the playoffs. On the macro, the Raiders have work to do to be perennial playoff contenders.

The good news is, McDaniels and general manager Dave Ziegler have the confidence of owner Mark Davis to take the necessary time to build this thing the right way. They will need all of that time to get it right.



**Davante Adams**
Photo by Stephen R. Sylvanie-USA TODAY Sports

**T3**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 6-11

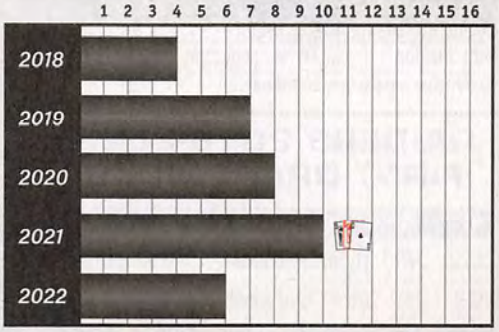
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 3-3

**STADIUM:** Allegiant Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 65,000

**SURFACE:** Grass

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

**INTERMOUNTAIN HEALTHCARE PERFORMANCE CENTER AND RAIDERS HEADQUARTERS**
**1475 RAIDERS WAY**
**HENDERSON, NV 89052**
**WWW.RAIDERS.COM**

**TRAINING CAMP:** Henderson, NV
**HEAD COACH:** Josh McDaniels
- 2nd season with Raiders
- 6-11 overall
- 4th season as NFL head coach/ 17-28 overall

**OWNER:** Mark Davis
**PRESIDENT:** Sandra Douglass Morgan
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Dave Ziegler
**ASST. GENERAL MANAGER:** Champ Kelly
**SR. PERSONNEL ADVISOR:** Shaun Herock
**DIR. COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Brandon Yeargan
**DIR. PRO PERSONNEL:** Dwayne Joseph

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mick Lombardi | Offensive coordinator | 11 | 2 |
| Scott Turner | Pass game coordinator | 12 | 1 |
| Bo Hardegree | Quarterbacks | 10 | 2 |
| Carmen Bricillo | Offensive line | 5 | 2 |
| Cameron Clemmons | Assistant line | 3 | 3 |
| Kennedy Polamalu | Running backs | 13 | 2 |
| Edgar Bennett | Receivers | 18 | 6 |
| Matt Lombardi | Asst. receivers/off. asst. | 5 | 1 |
| Jerry Schuplinski | Tight ends | 12 | 2 |
| Mitch Singler | Off. quality control | 2 | 2 |
| Fred Walker | Offensive assistant | 2 | 2 |
| Patrick Graham | Defensive coordinator | 13 | 2 |
| Rob Leonard | Defensive line | 11 | 1 |
| Rob Ryan | Senior defensive asst. | 23 | 2 |
| Antonio Pierce | Linebackers | 2 | 2 |
| Jason Simmons | *Defensive backs | 13 | 2 |
| Chris Ash | Defensive backs | 3 | 2 |
| Matt Edwards | Def. asst./pass-rush spec. | 6 | 2 |
| Matt Feeney | Def. quality control | 2 | 2 |
| Tom McMahon | Special teams coord. | 17 | 2 |
| Derius Swinton II | Asst. special teams | 14 | 1 |
| Danny Amendola | Coaching asst./returners | 1 | 1 |
| A.J. Neibel | Head S&C | 19 | 11 |
| D'Anthony Batiste | S&C assistant | 14 | 6 |
| Rick Slate | S&C assistant | 6 | 6 |
| Deuce Gruden | S&C assistant | 8 | 6 |
| Matt Sheldon | Dir. FB res./game strat | 20 | 2 |

*Defensive pass game coordinator

## RAIDERS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 3/90 | Dylan Parham | G | Starter |
| 2021 | 1/17 | Alex Leatherwood | T/G | Bears |
| 2020 | 1/12 | Henry Ruggs III | WR | FA |
| 2019 | 1/4 | Clelin Ferrell | DE | 49ers |
| 2018 | 1/15 | Kolton Miller | T | Starter |

## COACHING

Coming off a playoff season in 2021, the Raiders took a step back under McDaniels in 2022 and slumped to only six wins. The Raiders were competitive throughout, but they ended up losing nine games in which the margin of loss was within one score. It was frustrating, to say the least, although it painted an accurate picture of where the Raiders roster truly stood and what changes needed to be made. Until further notice, though, McDaniels is clearly under pressure to get the ship righted. By all measure, he has the confidence of Davis, but it sure would help if the club took a noticeable step in the right direction. All that said, the Raiders never quit on McDaniels and there was mostly praise for what he was trying to implement and create. It was hard to get a good read on new defensive coordinator Patrick Graham, who simply didn't have the necessary pieces in place to carry out the assignments of his scheme. That included the mental and physical ability, hence the major overhaul the defense is undergoing. Graham will be judged when the necessary talent is on hand, and the Raiders hope the offseason, including a six-player defensive draft class, creates a better foundation from which to work.

**RATING: 7**

## QUARTERBACKS

Given the situation in San Francisco and the longstanding relationships involved, one of the worst-kept secrets in the NFL was the Raiders and Jimmy Garoppolo pairing up in free agency. That happened almost as soon as the market opened, and just like that the Raiders had their short-term replacement for Derek Carr. No doubt Garoppolo's injury history creates concern, but there is no doubting his winning pedigree considering the multiple conference championship games he helped the 49ers get to and the Super Bowl appearance in 2020. His understanding of the offense of McDaniels, his former coach in New England, and his efficiency in the red zone will be welcome additions to the Raiders. Long-time backup Brian Hoyer was signed to provide security, and the addition of Purdue slinger Aidan O'Connell adds youth and potential to the room.

**RATING: 7**

## RUNNING BACKS

Josh Jacobs was the NFL's rushing leader last year and while the Raiders will continue to lean on their productive running back, expect more of an expanded role for second-year players Zamir White and Britain Brown,

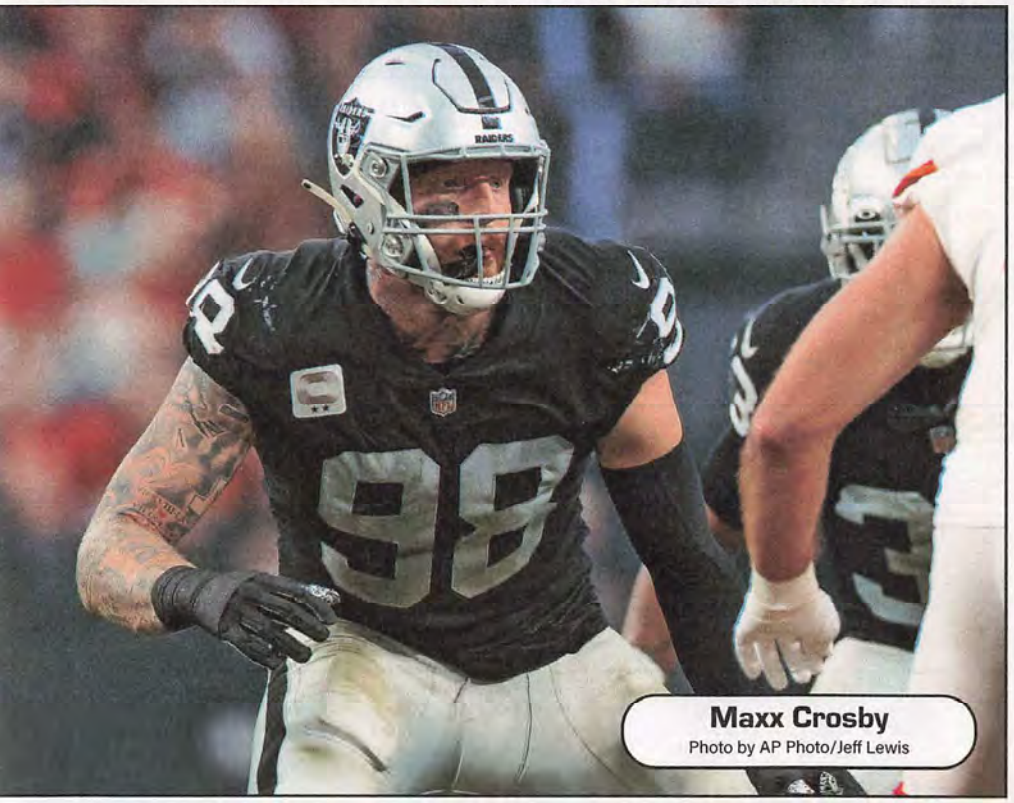
## SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

The previous front-office regime left the cupboard bare, so Las Vegas will look towards some of the prospects selected a year ago to help them regain winning form. In an interesting chain of events, the Raiders declined to pick up the fifth-year option on RB **Josh Jacobs** and then selected RB **Zamir White** in the draft. Jacobs responded with a career-year, essentially making White a redshirt rookie as he watched from the sideline. Regardless of how the Jacobs saga unfolds, the team will be dependent upon White becoming more involved on offense as part of a one-two punch. It could be an audition for the starting job in 2024. ... A shoulder injury seemed to have derailed the season for DE **Neil Farrell** before it could ever begin. He wasn't able to make his debut until Week 5 and was inactive for another four games. When inserted into the lineup, he was in on nearly one-third of the defensive snaps. There is still high hope for Farrell in Silver and Black. ... Can LB **Divine Deablo** finally become the cornerstone piece he projects to be? He was among the league leaders in tackles before an injury ended his season prematurely in week nine.

## ON THE HOT SEAT

**CHANDLER JONES**

The Raiders paid big money to Jones last year in the hope of him adding a complementary pass-rush element opposite Maxx Crosby. But for far too many stretches of the season, Jones was MIA and the pass rush never took off. That was a huge opportunity lost. Jones is back for at least one more season, and the manner in which he finished his season before missing the last two games with an injury offers some hope that he can at least provide a level of what the Raiders were counting on last year. The addition of Tyree Wilson, the seventh overall pick in the draft, creates a rotation with Jones that the Raiders hope translates to more bang for the buck. However, it is up to Jones to elevate his game.



**Maxx Crosby**
Photo by AP Photo/Jeff Lewis

two drafts picks from a year ago who watched and learned behind Jacobs in their first years. The hope is that they don't lose any level of production, but are able to preserve all three, specifically Jacobs, for end of games and end of the season. The Raiders also have to keep an eye on a future that might not include Jacobs. All things considered, though, this is a solid room and one where Raiders have multiple options to turn to.

**RATING: 8**

## RECEIVERS

Davante Adams heads into his second season with the Raiders and shows no signs of letting up after producing 100 catches for 1,516 yards and 14 touchdowns. He was everything the Raiders hoped he would be upon trading for him. The addition of Jakobi Meyers, who played under McDaniels in New England, changes things up in how the Raiders distributed the ball over the last few years, but is not expected to affect the level of production. The Raiders are eying a Meyers pairing with Hunter Renfrow in the slot much like the Julian Edelman and Danny Amendola tandem in New England. It could be just what Renfrow needs to get back on track after an injury-plagued season.

**RATING: 8**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

What was expected to be a weakness last year turned into one of the most stable groups on the field for the Raiders, as their offensive line led the way for the NFL's lead-

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

**KEY ADDITION:**
**WR Jakobi Meyers**
Josh McDaniels reached back to his days in New England to add the sure-handed Meyers, whose understanding of the offense and his slot receiver role creates a perfect complement to Davante Adams.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**
LS Jacob Bobenmoyer, WR DeAndre Carter, WR Phillip Dorsett, S Marcus Epps, CB Brandon Facyson, QB Jimmy Garoppolo, TE Austin Hooper, TE O.J. Howard, QB Brian Hoyer, DT John Jenkins, S Jaquan Johnson, CB David Long Jr., S Duke Shelley, WR Cam Sims, LB Robert Spillane, DE Jordan Willis

**KEY LOSS:**
**TE Darren Waller (9/6)***
Two years ago, Waller was considered one of the best tight ends in the NFL, but two seasons of injuries limited his time on the field. Nevertheless, the Raiders will miss their big weapon.

**OTHER LOSSES:**
CB Anthony Averett (7/6), T Jackson Barton (6/0), **DT Andrew Billings (14/14)**, DE Tashawn Bower (6/0), LB Jayon Brown (8/6), **QB David Carr (15/15)**, S Matthias Farley (17/0), DE Clelin Ferrell (16/4), **S Duron Harmon (17/16), WR Mack Hollins (17/16)**, DE Jordan Jenkins (0/0), CB Sidney Jones IV (5/1), LB Micah Kiser (0/0), LB Harvey Langi (2/2), **TE Foster Moreau (15/14)**, DT Kyle Peko (8/0), **LB Denzel Perryman (12/11)**, DE Isaac Rochell (1/0), LS Trent Sieg (17/0), QB Jarrett Stidham (5/2), **CB Rock Ya-Sin (11/9)***
**Total games played/started lost: 208/122**

**STARTERS RETURNING**
14: 7 offense, 7 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS

**JOSH JACOBS**

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Derek Carr | 502 | 305 | 3522 | 24 | 14 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Josh Jacobs | 340 | 1653 | 4.9 | 12 |
| Derek Carr | 24 | 102 | 4.3 | 0 |
| Jarrett Stidham | 14 | 84 | 6.0 | 0 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Davante Adams | 100 | 1516 | 15.2 | 14 |
| Mack Hollins | 57 | 690 | 12.1 | 4 |
| Foster Moreau | 33 | 420 | 12.7 | 2 |
| Josh Jacobs | 53 | 400 | 7.6 | 0 |

**Kicking:** Carlson 35/36 XPs, 34/37 FGs, 137 points
**Tackles:** Crosby 88, Harmon 86, Perryman 83
**Sacks:** Crosby 12.5, Jones 4.5, Ferrell 2
**INTs:** Harmon 2, Perryman 2, Robertson 2

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 352.5 | 12 |
| Passing Offense | 231.4 | T-11 |
| Rushing Offense | 121.1 | 17 |
| Points | 23.2 | 12 |
| Sacked | 35 | T-9 |
| 3rd Down % | 39.9 | 16 |

| Defense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Defense | 365.6 | 28 |
| Passing Defense | 242.9 | 29 |
| Rushing Defense | 122.8 | 19 |
| Points Allowed | 24.6 | 26 |
| INTs | 6 | T-31 |
| Sacks | 27 | 30 |
| Turnover Diff. | -8 | 30 |

# RAIDERS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **17** | **Adams, Davante** | **6-1** | **215** | **10** | **Fresno State** | **17/17** | **T,GB 22** | **D2 GB 14** | **Proved last year he is still one of the best wide receivers in pro football.** |
| 3 | Carter, DeAndre (RS) | 5-8 | 190 | 6 | Sacramento State | 17/7 | UFA,LAC 23 | CFA BLT 15 | Hopes to build on career-high receiving numbers and also contribute on special teams. |
| 84 | Cole Sr., Keelan | 6-1 | 194 | 7 | Kentucky Wesleyan | 14/3/1/1 | FA 22 | CFA JAX 17 | Has a fight on his hands to make the 53-man roster in second season with Raiders. |
| 11 | Dorsett II, Phillip | 5-10 | 192 | 9 | Miami | 15/4/0/2 | UFA,HOUS 23 | D1 IND 15 | Adds the element of speed in and around Raiders' other receiving weapons. |
| 82 | Hooper, Austin (TE) | 6-4 | 254 | 8 | Stanford | 17/2 | UFA,TENN 23 | D3 ATL 16 | Now back in a tight-end friendly offense, and production should reflect that. |
| 80 | Horsted, Jesper (TE) | 6-3 | 237 | 4 | Princeton | 15/0/0/2 | FA 22 | CFA CHI 19 | Has a chance to win the last tight-end position, assuming Raiders keep three. |
| 88 | Howard, O.J. (TE) | 6-6 | 250 | 7 | Alabama | 15/14/0/2 | UFA,HOUS 23 | D1 TB 17 | Veteran player has fallen off in terms of production and needs a strong training camp. |
| 18 | Johnson, Tyler (RS) | 6-1 | 205 | 3 | Minnesota | 2/0/0/3 | FA 23 | D5 TB 20 | In a crowded and competitive room; needs to open eyes in a hurry. |
| | **Mayer, Michael (TE)** | **6-4** | **265** | **R** | **Notre Dame** | **0/0** | **D2 23** | **D2 LV 23** | **A Notre Dame rookie with a chance to be an impact player on Day 1.** |
| **16** | **Meyers, Jakobi** | **6-2** | **200** | **5** | **North Carolina State** | **14/13/0/3** | **UFA,NE 23** | **CFA NE 19** | **Reunited with Josh McDaniels in an offense he knows and is comfortable in.** |
| **13** | **Renfrow, Hunter** | **5-10** | **185** | **5** | **Clemson** | **10/1/0/2** | **D5 19** | **D5 OAK 19** | **Lost most of last season to injuries and needs a bounce back in a big way.** |
| 81 | Sims, Cam | 6-5 | 214 | 6 | Alabama | 17/3 | UFA,WSH 23 | CFA WSH 18 | Tall, rangy receiver adds versatility and size. |
| | Tucker, Tre | 5-9 | 185 | R | Cincinnati | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 LV 23 | Rookie third-round pick adds situational flexibility and a burst of speed. |
| 19 | Turner, DJ | 5-9 | 205 | 2 | Pittsburgh | 9/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA LV 21 | Never really broke through last year and plenty of competition has been added since. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| **64** | **Bars, Alex (RG)** | **6-5** | **314** | **5** | **Notre Dame** | **15/14/0/1** | **FA 22** | **CFA CHI 19** | **Stabilized right guard last year, but ideally fills a super-sub role this season.** |
| **72** | **Eluemunor, Jermaine (RT)** | **6-4** | **335** | **7** | **Texas A&M** | **17/17** | **FA 21** | **D5 BLT 17** | **Took a huge step forward after claiming right-tackle spot, but needs to keep fighting.** |
| 65 | Grasu, Hroniss (C/G) | 6-3 | 301 | 7 | Oregon | 4/1/0/1 | FA 22 | D3 CHI 15 | Veteran center that adds a level of security in reserve. |
| 71 | *Herron, Justin (T) | 6-5 | 290 | 4 | Wake Forest | 1/0/3/0 | T,NE 22 | D6 NE 20 | Lost all of last season to a knee injury, but Raiders remain high on the upside. |
| **68** | **James, Andre (C)** | **6-4** | **300** | **5** | **UCLA** | **15/15/0/2** | **CFA 19** | **CFA OAK 19** | **Has played reasonably well since taking over at center; needs to be more consistent.** |
| **74** | **Miller, Kolton (LT)** | **6-8** | **325** | **6** | **UCLA** | **16/16/0/1** | **D1 18** | **D1 OAK 18** | **Stabilizing force at left tackle who keeps getting better and better.** |
| 77 | Munford, Thayer (T) | 6-6 | 315 | 2 | Ohio State | 17/4 | D7 22 | D7 LV 22 | Appeared in all 17 games as a rookie and has a chance to win job at right tackle. |
| 67 | Murray, Justin (G/T) | 6-5 | 315 | 6 | Cincinnati | 5/1/0/8 | FA 23 | CFA DEN 16 | Has positional versatility, which will come in handy as he fights for roster spot. |
| 54 | Muti, Netane (G) | 6-3 | 307 | 4 | Fresno State | 1/0/2/4 | FA 22 | D6 DEN 20 | Will be in the mix as the starting right guard or a reserve role. |
| **66** | **Parham, Dylan (LG)** | **6-3** | **285** | **2** | **Memphis** | **17/17** | **D3 22** | **D3 LV 22** | **Impressive rookie season at left guard, but could make the move to center.** |
| 75 | *Parker, Brandon (T) | 6-8 | 320 | 6 | North Carolina A&T | 0/0/0/0 | D3 18 | D3 OAK 18 | Missed all of last season with a labrum injury, but adds experience in reserve. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | Abdullah, Ameer | 5-9 | 203 | 9 | Nebraska | 17/0 | UFA,CARO 22 | D2 DET 15 | Won over the Raiders with his third-down capabilities and special-teams play. |
| 34 | Bolden, Brandon | 5-11 | 220 | 11 | Mississippi | 16/0/0/1 | UFA,NE 22 | CFA NE 12 | Purely a special-teams player and locker-room leader; two jobs he does well. |
| 38 | Brown, Brittain | 6-1 | 205 | 2 | UCLA | 6/0/0/11 | D7 22 | D7 LV 22 | Took a virtual redshirt season as rookie, but role could expand in second season. |
| **28** | **Jacobs, Josh** | **5-10** | **220** | **4** | **Alabama** | **17/17** | **D1 19** | **D1 OAK 19** | **NFL's leading rusher and the heart and soul of the Raiders offense.** |
| 45 | Johnson, Jakob (FB) | 6-3 | 255 | 5 | Tennessee | 17/9 | FA 22 | FA NE 19 | Does not get nearly the credit due for his role as blocker. |
| 47 | *McCormick, Sincere | 5-9 | 205 | 2 | Texas-San Antonio | 0/0/0/0 | CFA 22 | CFA LV 22 | Has an uphill climb to earn a roster spot. |
| 35 | White, Zamir | 6-0 | 215 | 2 | Georgia | 14/0/0/3 | D4 22 | D4 LV 22 | Should see his role expand and prosper in second season and he needs to embrace it. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | Garbers, Chase | 6-2 | 225 | 2 | California | 0/0/2/0 | FA 22 | CFA LV 22 | Heading into his second season in the building and time for him to make his move. |
| **10** | **Garoppolo, Jimmy** | **6-2** | **225** | **10** | **Eastern Illinois** | **11/10/1/5** | **UFA,SF 23** | **D2 NE 14** | **Raiders hope offensive familiarity leads to more efficient play on talented offense.** |
| 7 | *Hoyer, Brian | 6-2 | 215 | 14 | Michigan State | 1/1/3/0 | FA 23 | CFA NE 09 | An extra coach in the quarterback room who can play if needed. |
| | O'Connell, Aidan | 6-3 | 210 | R | Purdue | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 LV 23 | Impressive rookie from Purdue is a great fit in Raiders offense. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 69 | Butler, Adam (E) | 6-5 | 300 | 6 | Vanderbilt | 0/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA NE 17 | Needs a big camp to claim a roster spot. |
| 94 | Butler, Matthew (T) | 6-3 | 290 | 2 | Tennessee | 6/0/0/11 | D5 22 | D5 LV 22 | Big season, and opportunity, for the second-year prospect from Tennessee. |
| **98** | **Crosby, Maxx (E)** | **6-5** | **255** | **5** | **Eastern Michigan** | **17/17** | **D4 19** | **D4 OAK 19** | **The heart and soul of the Raiders and one of the best pass rushers in the NFL.** |
| 92 | Farrell Jr., Neil (T) | 6-4 | 325 | 2 | Louisiana State | 9/0/0/8 | D4 22 | D4 LV 22 | Rookie year was spent learning and developing, but time is now for the LSU product. |
| 95 | Jenkins, John (NT) | 6-3 | 327 | 11 | Georgia | 16/0/0/1 | UFA,MIA 23 | D3 NO 13 | Veteran presence who knows his way around the defensive line of scrimmage. |
| **55** | ***Jones, Chandler (E)** | **6-5** | **265** | **12** | **Syracuse** | **15/15/0/0** | **UFA,ARIZ 22** | **D1 NE 12** | **Did not live up to expectations after signing a big contract, but has another chance to produce.** |
| 51 | Koonce, Malcolm (E) | 6-3 | 250 | 3 | Buffalo | 17/0 | D3 21 | D3 LV 21 | Time is running out on a pass-rush prospect who hasn't put it all together. |
| **91** | **Nichols, Bilal (I)** | **6-3** | **313** | **6** | **Delaware** | **17/17** | **UFA,CHI 22** | **D5 CHI 18** | **Solid season and player who could benefit from more help around him.** |
| | Silvera, Nesta Jade (T) | 6-2 | 315 | R | Arizona State | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 LV 23 | Rookie from Arizona State adds ruggedness and pass-rush elements. |
| **90** | **Tillery, Jerry (T)** | **6-6** | **295** | **5** | **Notre Dame** | **15/4/0/1** | **W,LAC 22** | **D1 LAC 19** | **Presence was felt when Raiders added him late last season with pass-rush juice.** |
| 99 | Willis, Jordan (E) | 6-4 | 270 | 7 | Kansas State | 9/0/0/1 | UFA,SF 23 | D3 CIN 17 | Will fit right in as a situational pass rusher. |
| | Wilson, Tyree (E) | 6-6 | 275 | R | Texas Tech | 0/0 | D1 23 | D1 LV 23 | Seventh overall pick is expected to be an impact player on Day 1. |
| | Young, Byron (T) | 6-3 | 292 | R | Alabama | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 LV 23 | Former Alabama standout has a chance to play big minutes as a rookie. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 36 | Bolton, Curtis (M) | 6-0 | 228 | 3 | Oklahoma | 10/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA GB 19 | Mostly a special-teams player, and a good one. |
| | Burney, Amari (O) | 6-2 | 228 | R | Florida | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 LV 23 | Rookie from Florida who projects as three-down linebacker. |
| 58 | Butler, Darien (O) | 6-0 | 225 | 2 | Arizona State | 15/0/0/2 | CFA 22 | CFA LV 22 | Made the team as an UDFA; now has a chance to spread his wings. |
| **5** | ***Deablo, Divine (O)** | **6-3** | **223** | **3** | **Virginia Tech** | **8/8/0/0** | **D3 21** | **D3 LV 21** | **Lost most of last season to injuries, but solves a lot of problems if he is healthy, productive.** |
| **59** | **Masterson, Luke (O)** | **6-1** | **220** | **2** | **Wake Forest** | **17/7** | **CFA 22** | **CFA LV 22** | **UDFA who got better and better as season progressed and now looks to build off it.** |
| **42** | **Spillane, Robert (M)** | **6-1** | **229** | **5** | **Western Michigan** | **16/5/0/1** | **UFA,PITT 23** | **CFA TENN 18** | **Key addition in free agency who Raiders expect to be a leader of the defense.** |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| | Bennett, Jakorian (CB) | 5-11 | 195 | R | Maryland | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 LV 23 | Ball-hawking rookie from Maryland has a chance to win a starting job. |
| **1** | **Epps, Marcus (S)** | **6-0** | **191** | **5** | **Wyoming** | **17/17** | **UFA,PHA 23** | **D6 MINN 19** | **Coming off a breakthrough season in Philadelphia; expected to be a defensive leader.** |
| **31** | **Facyson, Brandon (CB)** | **6-2** | **197** | **6** | **Virginia Tech** | **16/4/0/1** | **UFA,IND 23** | **CFA LAC 18** | **After spending last year with Colts, Raiders brought the rangy corner back to Vegas.** |
| 37 | Hall, Tyler (CB) | 5-10 | 190 | 3 | Wyoming | 7/3/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA ATL 20 | Flashed every time he was on the field and will have a chance to win the slot CB job. |
| **39** | **Hobbs, Nate (CB)** | **6-1** | **195** | **3** | **Illinois** | **11/11/0/0** | **D5 21** | **D5 LV 21** | **Lost a big chunk of second season to injuries, but the future is still bright.** |
| 26 | Johnson, Jaquan (S) | 5-10 | 190 | 5 | Miami | 16/3 | UFA,BUFF 23 | D6 BUFF 19 | Special-teams ace who can play on the back end if needed. |
| 24 | Long Jr., David (CB) | 5-11 | 196 | 5 | Michigan | 13/4/0/4 | UFA,LAR 23 | D3 LAR 19 | Big, physical corner who should fit well in the Raiders man-cover scheme. |
| **25** | **Moehrig Jr., Tre'von (S)** | **6-2** | **202** | **3** | **Texas Christian** | **15/13/0/2** | **D2 21** | **D2 LV 21** | **Raiders still have high hopes for third-year safety, but needs to put it all together.** |
| 20 | Pola-Mao, Isaiah (S) | 6-4 | 205 | 2 | Southern Cal | 11/0/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA LV 22 | Tall, rangy safety who opened eyes as a rookie UDFA. |
| 21 | Robertson, Amik (CB) | 5-9 | 183 | 4 | Louisiana Tech | 17/7 | D4 20 | D4 LV 20 | Played the best football of his career last year and needs to build off of it. |
| 23 | Shelley, Duke (S) | 5-8 | 183 | 5 | Kansas State | 11/5/0/0 | UFA,MINN 23 | D6 CHI 19 | His play took off after moving from slot to perimeter; has chance to play big role. |
| | Smith II, Christopher (S) | 5-11 | 185 | R | Georgia | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 LV 23 | The rookie from Georgia projects as a big contributor in his first NFL season. |
| 33 | Teamer Jr., Roderic (S) | 6-0 | 205 | 4 | Tulane | 1/1/3 | FA 21 | CFA LAC 19 | Valuable role player who can play all three safety positions and corner when needed. |
| 27 | Webb, Sam (CB) | 6-2 | 195 | 2 | Missouri Western | 17/3 | CFA 22 | CFA LV 22 | Raiders love the upside of the impressive UDFA. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| | Bobenmoyer, Jacob (LS) | 6-2 | 235 | 4 | Northern Colorado | 13/0/0/0 | FA 23 | FA DEN 20 | Newly signed long snapper seen as an upgrade at the position. |
| 2 | Carlson, Daniel (K) | 6-5 | 215 | 6 | Auburn | 17/0 | FA 18 | D5 MINN 18 | The Raiders are in good hands with their consistent kicker. |
| 6 | Cole, AJ (P) | 6-4 | 220 | 5 | North Carolina State | 17/0 | CFA 19 | CFA OAK 19 | Coming off a Pro-Bowl season and one of the best in the NFL. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (I indicates player in previous NFL camp): WR Chris Lacy (3, Oklahoma State); TEs Cole Fotheringham (I, Utah), John Shenker (Auburn); T Dalton Wagner (Arkansas); G McClendon Curtis (Chattanooga); G/T Vitaliy Gurman (I, Toledo); C/G Jordan Meredith (I, Western Kentucky); RB Austin Walter (3, Rice); DEs Brock Martin (Oklahoma State), Adam Plant (Nevada-Las Vegas), George Tarlas (Boise State); DL David Agoha (None); LB Kana'i Mauga (I, Southern Cal); LB Drake Thomas (North Carolina State); CBs Ike Brown (I, Florida International), Bryce Cosby (I, Ball State), Azizi Hearn (UCLA), Jordan Perryman (Washington); S Jaydon Grant (Oregon State)

ing rusher and ranked 19th in terms of sacks given up. Credit to Jermaine Eluemunor, who turned himself into a viable right tackle and had a solid season. More improvement is needed, but in the short term, the Raiders should be able to get by with what they return. That includes left tackle Kolton Miller, one of the best in the business, Dylan Parham, a rookie starter at left guard, and center Andre James. The Raiders need to find an upgrade to Alex Bars at right guard, but there are in-house candidates. Brandon Parker, Thayer Munford and Justin Herron could push for roles, with Munford a candidate to take over at right tackle.

**RATING: 7**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Raiders have turned this room over the last two years and now feature seven players age 27 or under and all are under contract for the foreseeable future. The key now is for guys to seize their opportunities. Outside of Maxx Crosby, it's a bunch of potential with rookies Tyree Wilson and Byron Young and second-year prospects Neil Farrell and Matthew Butler. Bilal Nichols is back inside, as is Jerry Tillery, who the Raiders added late last season. If the Raiders can get more out of veteran Chandler Jones, along with Wilson and Young, they can expect some much-needed pass-rush pressure.

**RATING: 7**

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Rookie Michael Mayer. It's hard to imagine a 6-foot-4, 250-pound tight end getting lost in the shuffle, but Mayer will benefit from playing alongside Davante Adams, Jakoby Meyers and Josh Jacobs and get freed up as a result to create havoc. Mayer has a chance to be one of the NFL's best rookies.

2. Jimmy G. Going back to 2014, Garoppolo ranks eighth among 38 quarterbacks with 200 or more red-zone passing attempts with a passer rating of 100.4. The Raiders have been among the worst teams in the NFL in that area of the field.

3. Nate Hobbs. As a rookie, Hobbs was one of the best cornerbacks in the NFL. But a hand injury, coupled with having to learn a brand new defense, set him back. The talent is there for a breakout season.

## LINEBACKERS

The Raiders added Robert Spillane, an inside linebacker from the Steelers, who is expected to be the leader of that group. But it's mostly hope and potential beyond that, as the Raiders need youngsters like Divine Deablo, Luke Masterson, Darien Butler and rookie Amari Burney to step up. Until further notice, though, that is way more uncertainty than a sure thing. Is there potential with this group? Absolutely. But that is a two-way street as that potential may never come to fruition.

**RATING: 6.5**

## SECONDARY

Another room that has undergone a facelift the last year or so, with the Raiders cleaning things out from the previous regime and restocking the cupboard with players that fit their scheme. First and foremost, the Raiders need Nate Hobbs to settle back in as the player he was as a rookie. In his defense, a nasty hand injury and having to learn a new defensive system slowed him down in his second year, but the talent is there for a turnaround. There is no clear-cut starter opposite him, with Brandon Facyson, David Long, Duke Shelley, Amik Robertson, Sam Webb and rookie Jakorian Bennett all in the mix. Tyler Hall could emerge in the slot. At safety, Marcus Epps brings experience coming off a Super Bowl appearance with the Eagles, and that influence should help settle down Tre'von Moehrig, who needs to bounce back after struggling during his second season. Rookie Christopher Smith could push for playing time early on.

**RATING: 6.5**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Raiders are in good hands with kicker Daniel Carlson and punter A.J. Cole, both of whom bring stability, consistency and Pro-Bowl level play. Rookie wide receiver Tre Tucker is expected to compete for snaps in the kickoff and punt return game, and his explosiveness could provide a big boost. As last year went on, this group improved by the day and ended up being a solid unit across all levels. That figures to be the case again this year, especially with the addition of Tucker in the return game.

**RATING: 8.5**

## INTANGIBLES

It's the second season for McDaniels and that should be a good thing. But the defense still needs a lot of work and Garoppolo will have to show he can adjust to a new way of doing things.

**RATING: Even**

— Vincent Bonsignore

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 6-11**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | at L.A. Chargers | 19-24 |
| Sept. 18 | ARIZONA (OT) | 23-29 |
| Sept. 25 | at Tennessee | 22-24 |
| Oct. 2 | DENVER | 32-23 |
| Oct. 10 | at Kansas City | 29-30 |
| Oct. 23 | HOUSTON | 38-20 |
| Oct. 30 | at New Orleans | 0-24 |
| Nov. 6 | at Jacksonville | 20-27 |
| Nov. 13 | INDIANAPOLIS | 20-25 |
| Nov. 20 | at Denver (OT) | 22-16 |
| Nov. 27 | at Seattle (OT) | 40-34 |
| Dec. 4 | L.A. CHARGERS | 27-20 |
| Dec. 8 | at L.A. Rams | 16-17 |
| Dec. 18 | NEW ENGLAND | 30-24 |
| Dec. 24 | at Pittsburgh | 10-13 |
| Jan. 1 | SAN FRANCISCO (OT) | 34-37 |
| Jan. 7 | KANSAS CITY | 13-31 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Pacific**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 10-14 | SAN FRANCISCO | TBD |
| Aug. 19 | at L.A. Rams (Sat) | 6:00 |
| Aug. 24-27 | at Dallas | TBD |
| | | |
| Sept. 10 | at Denver | 1:25 |
| Sept. 17 | at Buffalo | 10:00 |
| Sept. 24 | PITTSBURGH | 5:20 |
| Oct. 1 | at L.A. Chargers | 1:05 |
| Oct. 9 | GREEN BAY (Mon) | 5:15 |
| Oct. 15 | NEW ENGLAND | 1:05 |
| Oct. 22 | at Chicago | 10:00 |
| Oct. 30 | at Detroit (Mon) | 5:15 |
| Nov. 5 | N.Y. GIANTS | 1:25 |
| Nov. 12 | N.Y. JETS | 5:20 |
| Nov. 19 | at Miami | 10:00 |
| Nov. 26 | KANSAS CITY | 1:25 |
| | BYE | |
| Dec. 10 | MINNESOTA | 1:05 |
| Dec. 14 | L.A. CHARGERS (Thu) | 5:15 |
| Dec. 25 | at Kansas City (Mon) | 10:00 |
| Dec. 31 | at Indianapolis | 10:00 |
| TBD | DENVER | TBD |

# LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

## Chargers Again Could be L.A.'s Best NFL Team

The Chargers' arrow continues to point up as they feature one of the NFL's top quarterbacks in Justin Herbert, a versatile talent in running back Austin Ekeler, a one-two, pass-rushing dynamo in Pro Bowler Khalil Mack and Joey Bosa and momentum from reaching the postseason last season for the first time since 2018.

Hopefully the sting of L.A. squandering a 27-point lead in a playoff loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars has subsided because this roster constructed by general manager Tom Telesco for third-year head coach Brandon Stanley, has an all-in feel to it.

With Herbert near the end of playing under his rookie contract, there's a sense of urgency among the Chargers to take advantage.

Few show more poise than Herbert, as he continues to rewrite the NFL record book for quarterbacks starting their careers. Despite being compromised for most of the 2022 season with a rib injury, Herbert became the first player to throw for 4,000 yards in his first three years.

No one in the NFL matched Ekeler's 20 touchdowns last year, two of which came in the playoffs, as he continues to produce at an impressive rate. His receiving skills complement the other pass-catchers and Herbert has an envious collection of targets in Keenan Allen, Mike Williams and first-round pick Quentin Johnston.

If Bosa stays fit, he bolsters a unit that also includes Pro-Bowl safety Derwin James Jr.

The time is now for L.A. and it has the talent to deliver a memorable season.

**Justin Herbert**
Photo by Joe Robbins

**2**
**PROJECTED FINISH**

**2022 RECORD:** 10-9

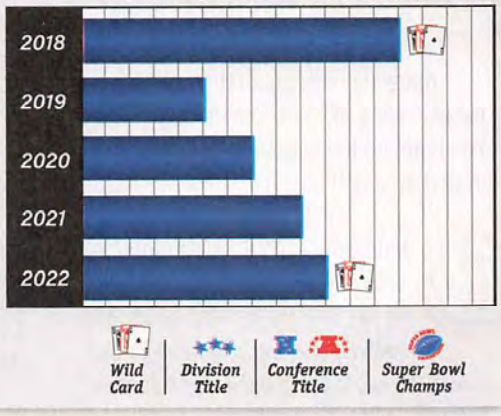
**DIVISIONAL RECORD:** 2-4

**STADIUM:** SoFi Stadium

**CAPACITY:** 71,500 (approximate)

**SURFACE:** Artificial (Hellas 44 oz. Matrix System)

### WINS PER YEAR



## AT A GLANCE

**3333 SUSAN STREET**
**COSTA MESA, CA 92626**
**(714) 540-7100**
**WWW.CHARGERS.COM**

**TRAINING CAMP:** Jack Hammett Sports Complex; Costa Mesa, CA
**HEAD COACH:** Brandon Staley
- 3rd season as Chargers/NFL head coach
- 19-16 overall; 0-1 postseason

**OWNER/CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD:** Dean A. Spanos
**PRES./FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:** John Spanos
**EVP/GENERAL MANAGER:** Tom Telesco
**DR. PLAYER PERSONNEL:** JoJo Wooden
**SR. DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:** Louis Clark
**DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:** Dennis Abraham
**DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:** Kevin Kelly

## COACHING STAFF

| Name | Position | NFL Yrs. | TEAM Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kellen Moore | Offensive coordinator | 6 | 1 |
| Doug Nussmeier | Quarterbacks | 8 | 1 |
| Tom Arth | Passing game specialist | 2 | 2 |
| Brendan Nugent | Offensive line | 11 | 2 |
| Shaun Sarrett | Assistant line | 12 | 3 |
| Chris Beatty | Receivers | 3 | 3 |
| Derrick Foster | Running backs | 3 | 3 |
| Kevin Koger | Tight ends | 5 | 3 |
| Phil Serchia | Offensive assistant | 1 | 1 |
| Pat White | Offensive assistant | 2 | 2 |
| Chandler Whitmer | Off. quality control | 3 | 3 |
| Derrick Ansley | Defensive coordinator | 4 | 3 |
| Jay Rodgers | @Defensive line | 15 | 3 |
| Mike Hiestand | Front seven specialist | 5 | 2 |
| John Timu | Assistant line | 3 | 3 |
| Jeff Howard | Linebackers | 11 | 1 |
| Giff Smith | Outside linebackers | 13 | 8 |
| Tom Donatell | *Defensive backs | 7 | 3 |
| Will Harris | Asst. defensive backs | 1 | 1 |
| Robert Muschamp | Def. quality control | 1 | 1 |
| Ryan Ficken | Special teams coord. | 17 | 2 |
| Chris Gould | Asst. special teams | 9 | 2 |
| Anthony Lomando | Dir./sports perf. | 15 | 3 |
| Jonathan Brooks | Head S&C | 7 | 7 |
| Lucius Jordan | Assistant S&C | 3 | 3 |

@ Defensive run game coordinator
* Defensive passing game coordinator

## CHARGERS 2018-2022 FIRST DRAFT PICKS

| YR. | RD. | NAME | POS. | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 1/17 | Zion Johnson | G | Starter |
| 2021 | 1/13 | Rashawn Slater | T | Starter |
| 2020 | 1/6 | Justin Herbert | QB | Starter |
| 2019 | 1/28 | Jerry Tillery | DT | Raiders |
| 2018 | 1/17 | Derwin James | S | Starter |

### COACHING

Staley has shown steady progress, but his growth hasn't come without some missteps. His fingerprints were all over that postseason meltdown against the Jaguars and that embarrassment came on the heels of Staley playing his starters in a meaningless game that left Williams unavailable due to a fracture in his back. But the players embrace Staley's gung-ho, innovative attitude, as he directs his team with an unorthodox flare. He regularly goes for it on fourth downs and there are other occasions where he throws caution to the wind. Staley is hoping the offense shows more life under fresh coordinator Kellen Moore. L.A. will have a first-year defensive coordinator in Derrick Ansley, after he spent the previous two seasons overseeing the Chargers' secondary.

**RATING: 7**

### QUARTERBACKS

Herbert is everything that everyone says he is: a cerebral, humble quarterback with a strong arm and top-notch leadership qualities. He's a star in a city that is known for them, a franchise player that continues to ascend. Since entering the NFL, Herbert paces the AFC in completions and is in the top 10 in passing yards, passing touchdowns and combined touchdowns. Herbert is a big reason why the Chargers became the first team in 2022 to have six players top 500 receiving yards and catch three touchdown passes. Herbert could be on the cusp of a big season, considering that the front line and receiving corps are in a better spot this season. Plus, Herbert will likely go into the season, or soon after it starts, with a rich, multi-year contract to put him at additional ease. The Chargers spent their final pick on Max Duggan, who could push Easton Stick for a roster spot, if L.A. declines to carry three quarterbacks.

**RATING: 9**

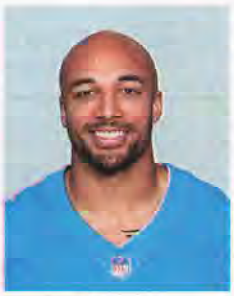
### RUNNING BACKS

Ekeler is the key back, but it comes with a distinction as he's more of a receiver than an every-down back. A significant chunk of his production came as a receiver, although he did lead the Chargers with 915 rushing yards and 13 touchdowns. Ekeler enters the season with a chip on his shoulder after being rebuffed by the Chargers for a new contract. The running attack hopes to get more from Joshua Kelley and Isaiah Spiller, a second-year player that had limited exposure last season. But if the offense can juice the passing game with more chunk plays, which Kellen Moore was hired to deliver, then the

### SCOUTING SNAPSHOT

Many opportunities can arise from injuries. Look no further than WR **Josh Palmer**. The lengthy target stepped in admirably when the injury bug bit Keenan Allen and Mike Williams last season, posting 72 receptions for 769 yards and three touchdowns. Look for the Canadian sensation to improve his totals once again, as he enters Year 3 playing behind a pair of aging veterans. ... A surprise undrafted rookie out of Stanford, T **Foster Sarell**, was activated off the practice squad during the season and even got the starting nod in three games. He would appear ready to fill in at the valuable swingman tackle spot. ... Los Angeles received great returns from 2022 sixth-round pick CB **Ja'Sir Taylor**, who is ready to assume the nickel-back role on defense and isn't afraid to stick his nose in the dirt against the run. ... The sudden retirement of FS Nasir Adderley at age 25 left a huge void in the secondary. It's not too late for the light bulb to turn on for FS **JT Woods**, who flashed big-time playmaking ability coming out of Baylor. In fact, he is capable of playing either safety spot or even spelling Taylor in the slot if needed. His on-the-job training should bode well for his maturation this season.

## ON THE HOT SEAT



**AUSTIN EKELER**

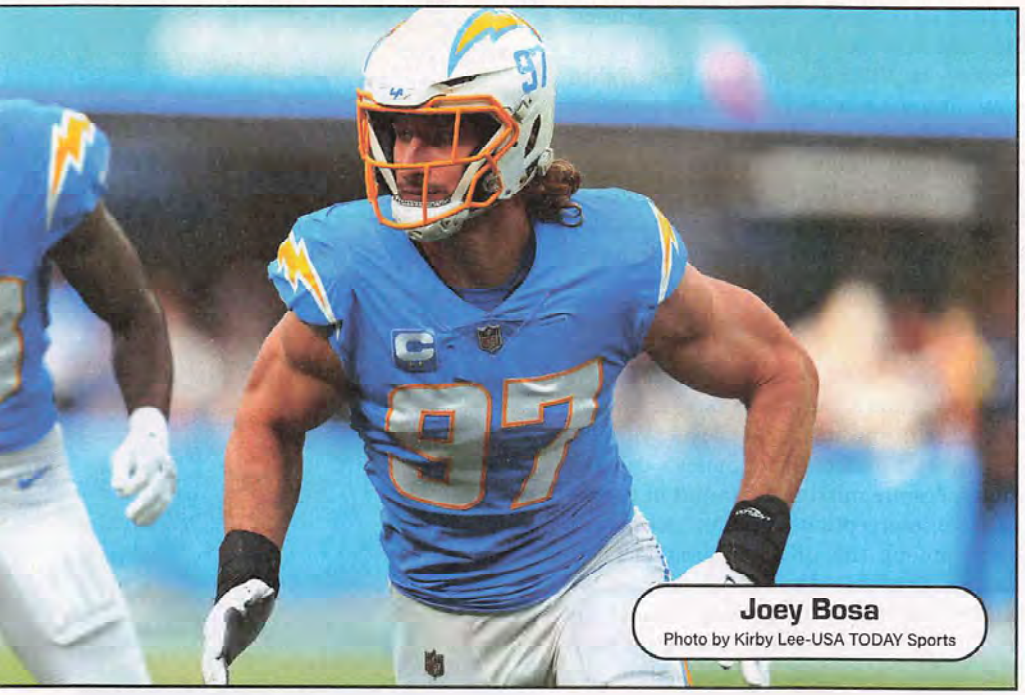
Ekeler barked during the offseason regarding his compensation after he led the NFL in total touchdowns for the second straight season. But the Chargers didn't bite on reworking his deal and they granted him permission to seek a trade. That didn't develop to Ekeler's liking, either, which has him in a position where he has to prove his worth before entering free agency next year. There's little argument to what the multi-talented Ekeler brings to an offense, but he's in a difficult spot as a hybrid player. Ekerler wants to be paid for his considerable work as a receiver, but teams tie his worth to the running back pay scale. L.A. could be the benefactor of Ekeler needing a big season for a big contract.

# CHARGERS PRE-CAMP ROSTER

| NO. | NAME | HT. | WT. | EXP | COLLEGE | GAMES | HOW ACQ. | ENTRY | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIVERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Allen, Keenan | 6-2 | 211 | 11 | California | 10/10/0/7 | D3 13 | D3 SD 13 | Hoping for a bounce-back season following a year where he couldn't avoid injuries. |
| 12 | Davis, Derius | 5-8 | 165 | R | Texas Christian | 0/0 | D4 23 | D4 LAC 23 | This converted cornerback turned into a big-play, kick returner for TCU. |
| 7 | Everett, Gerald (TE) | 6-3 | 240 | 7 | South Alabama | 16/10/0/1 | UFA,SEA 22 | D2 LAR 17 | Career-best in yardage (555), receptions (58); tied career-high with four TDs. |
| 15 | *Guyton, Jalen (RS) | 6-1 | 212 | 4 | North Texas | 3/0/0/0 | FA 23 | CFA DALL 19 | Gives the receiving corps its needed speed element, but needs to stay healthy. |
| 1 | Johnson, Quentin | 6-2 | 208 | R | Texas Christian | 0/0 | D1 23 | D1 LAC 23 | Contributed 60 catches for 1,069 yards and six touchdowns in TCU's title run. |
| 88 | McKitty, Tre' (TE) | 6-4 | 246 | 3 | Georgia | 17/7 | D3 21 | D3 LAC 21 | Played in all 17 games, and in two he recorded three receptions; mostly blocks. |
| 5 | Palmer, Josh | 6-1 | 210 | 3 | Tennessee | 16/11/0/1 | D3 21 | D3 LAC 21 | Set career highs in receptions (72), receiving yards (769) and touchdowns (3). |
| 89 | Parham Jr., Donald (TE) | 6-8 | 237 | 4 | Stetson | 6/1/0/5 | FA 20 | CFA DET 19 | Limited to six games with injuries; four receptions in playoff loss was season high. |
| 48 | Smartt, Stone (TE) | 6-4 | 226 | 2 | Old Dominion | 7/1/1/0 | CFA 22 | CFA LAC 22 | Didn't play much as rookie and he'll likely need solid camp to earn a roster spot. |
| 81 | Williams, Mike | 6-4 | 218 | 7 | Clemson | 13/13/0/4 | D1 17 | D1 LAC 17 | Team leader in receiving yards (895); four catches/65 yards in four straight games. |
| **OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 76 | Clapp, Will (C) | 6-5 | 311 | 6 | Louisiana State | 17/3 | FA 22 | D7 NORL 18 | Saw action in all 17 games, with most of that work on special teams. |
| 64 | Jaimes, Brenden (G) | 6-5 | 300 | 3 | Nebraska | 12/0/2/3 | D5 21 | D5 LAC 21 | Was a regular on field-goal protection and saw a few offensive snaps. |
| 77 | Johnson, Zion (LG) | 6-3 | 316 | 2 | Boston College | 17/17 | D1 22 | D1 LAC 22 | L.A. was hopeful the transition would be seamless for this rookie and it was. |
| 63 | Linsley, Corey (C) | 6-3 | 301 | 10 | Ohio State | 14/14/0/3 | UFA, GB 21 | D5 GB 14 | His experience and leadership continues to be invaluable for the Bolts. |
| 71 | McFadden, Jordan (G) | 6-2 | 303 | R | Clemson | 0/0 | D5 23 | D5 LAC 23 | Made mark at Clemson at both tackle spots, but he'll likely go inside. |
| 79 | Pipkins III, Trey (RT) | 6-6 | 307 | 5 | Sioux Falls | 14/14/0/3 | D3 19 | D3 LAC 19 | Once-raw talent is now reliable and was rewarded with a big deal. |
| 68 | Salyer, Jamaree (RG) | 6-4 | 325 | 2 | Georgia | 17/14 | D6 22 | D6 LAC 22 | 6th-round pick filled in when Slater went down and flourished. |
| 73 | Sarell, Foster (T) | 6-6 | 322 | 2 | Stanford | 8/4/3/0 | FA 22 | CFA BLT 21 | Collected three starts at RT and briefly for LT Salyer in playoff loss. |
| 70 | *Slater, Rashawn (LT) | 6-4 | 315 | 3 | Northwestern | 3/3/0/0 | D1 21 | D1 LAC 21 | En route to his second solid year, but biceps injury cut season short. |
| 62 | *Trainer, Andrew (T) | 6-7 | 320 | 2 | William & Mary | 0/0/0/0 | CFA 22 | CFA LAC 22 | Looks to earn a roster spot by supplying depth at tackle. |
| 60 | *Weaver, Isaac (C) | 6-6 | 310 | 2 | Old Dominion | 0/0/0/0 | CFA 22 | CFA LAC 22 | A long-shot to make the team with Linsley and Clapp ahead of him. |
| **RUNNING BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | Ekeler, Austin | 5-10 | 200 | 7 | Western State (Colo.) | 17/17 | CFA 17 | CFA LAC 17 | His 107 receptions for a RB were the second-most in a season ever. |
| 40 | Horvath, Zander (FB) | 6-3 | 230 | 2 | Purdue | 15/2/0/2 | D7 22 | D7 LAC 22 | Just the fourth 7th-round pick to catch two touchdown passes in his first two games. |
| 25 | Kelley, Joshua | 5-11 | 212 | 4 | UCLA | 13/1/0/0 | D4 20 | D4 LAC 20 | Knee injury derailed the momentum of a decent third NFL season. |
| 34 | Rountree III, Larry | 5-10 | 211 | 2 | Missouri | 4/0/0/1 | FA 23 | D6 LAC 21 | Was active for four games; spent majority of the season on practice squad. |
| 28 | Spiller, Isaiah | 6-1 | 215 | 2 | Texas A&M | 6/0/2/9 | D4 22 | D4 LAC 22 | L.A. looking for more growth here in his second season after so-so start. |
| **QUARTERBACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Duggan, Max | 6-1 | 207 | R | Texas Christian | 0/0 | D7 23 | D7 LAC 23 | Passed for more than 4,100 yards and accounted for 41 total touchdowns at TCU. |
| 10 | Herbert, Justin | 6-6 | 236 | 4 | Oregon | 17/17 | D1 20 | D1 LAC 20 | Among the top five in completions (2nd), yards (2nd) and passing first downs (4th). |
| 2 | Stick, Easton | 6-1 | 224 | 5 | North Dakota State | 0/0/1/16 | D5 19 | D5 LAC 19 | In the mix to be No. 2 QB after serving in No. 3 role and not taking a snap in 2022. |
| **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** | | | | | | | | | |
| 56 | Fox, Morgan (E) | 6-3 | 275 | 7 | Colorado State-Pueblo | 17/12 | FA 22 | CFA LA 16 | His 6.5 sacks were second on the team as he played various roles along the line. |
| 91 | Hinton, Christopher (E) | 6-4 | 310 | 1 | Michigan | 4/0/0/1 | FA 22 | CFA NYG 22 | Notched his first NFL tackle in Week 17 after playing with three other teams in '22. |
| 98 | *Johnson, Austin (T) | 6-4 | 314 | 8 | Penn State | 8/8/0/0 | UFA,NYG 22 | D2 TENN 16 | Had a presence up front before a Week-9 knee injury ended his season. |
| 69 | Joseph-Day, Sebastian (NT) | 6-4 | 310 | 6 | Rutgers | 16/16/0/1 | UFA,LAR 22 | D6 LAR 18 | Produced a career-year with 56 tackles, 2.0 sacks and an interception. |
| 99 | Matlock, Scott (T) | 6-4 | 296 | R | Boise State | 0/0 | D6 23 | D6 LAC 23 | Boise State's top tackler over last two seasons will get chance to contribute soon. |
| 93 | *Ogbonnia, Otito (T) | 6-4 | 320 | 2 | UCLA | 7/1/0/2 | D5 22 | D5 LAC 22 | Was starting to contribute in spot play before knee injury cost him eight games. |
| **LINEBACKERS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 97 | Bosa, Joey (O) | 6-5 | 280 | 8 | Ohio State | 5/4/0/0 | D1 16 | D1 SD 16 | Limited to five games and that led to career lows in sacks and tackles. |
| 0 | Henley, Daiyan (I) | 6-0 | 225 | R | Washington State | 0/0 | D3 23 | D3 LAC 23 | Led Washington State with 106 tackles and had 12 tackles for losses. |
| 6 | Kendricks, Eric (I) | 6-0 | 232 | 9 | UCLA | 17/17 | FA 23 | D2 MINN 15 | L.A. hopeful he can produce another season with triple-digit tackles. |
| 53 | *Lloyd, Damon (I) | 6-0 | 235 | 3 | Indiana, Pa. | 0/0/0/0 | FA 21 | FA LAC 21 | Undersized linebacker will face a challenge to make the roster. |
| 52 | Mack, Khalil (O) | 6-3 | 269 | 10 | Buffalo | 17/17 | T,CHI 22 | D1 OAK 14 | His 84.5 sacks since entering the NFL in 2014 are the sixth-most overall. |
| 9 | Murray Jr., Kenneth (I) | 6-2 | 241 | 4 | Oklahoma | 16/16/0/0 | D1 20 | D1 LAC 20 | Recorded his first career sack and forced fumble last season. |
| 31 | Niemann, Nick (I) | 6-3 | 234 | 3 | Iowa | 17/0/0/0 | D6 21 | D6 LAC 21 | His 303 special-teams snaps were the fourth-highest on the team. |
| 57 | Ogbongbemiga, Amen (I) | 6-0 | 231 | 3 | Oklahoma State | 17/0 | CFA 21 | CFA LAC 21 | A special-teams regular also notched three tackles in base defense. |
| 94 | Rumph II, Chris (O) | 6-2 | 244 | 3 | Duke | 15/0/0/2 | D4 21 | D4 LAC 21 | Tied for second among Chargers with five special-teams tackles. |
| 45 | Tuipulotu, Tuli (O) | 6-3 | 266 | R | Southern Cal | 0/0 | D2 23 | D2 LAC 23 | All-American led nation with 13.5 sacks, ranked second with 22 tackles for losses. |
| **DEFENSIVE BACKS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 43 | Davis, Michael (CB) | 6-2 | 196 | 7 | Brigham Young | 17/12 | FA 17 | CFA LAC 17 | His 15 passes defensed were the most by a Charger since 2017. |
| 32 | Gilman, Alohi (S) | 5-10 | 201 | 4 | Notre Dame | 17/5 | D6 20 | D6 LAC 20 | Career-high 55 tackles and he added an interception. |
| 37 | *Hall, Kemon (CB) | 5-11 | 190 | 3 | North Texas | 2/0/0/2 | FA 23 | CFA LAC 19 | Spent most of season on the practice squad; had 19 special-teams snaps. |
| 27 | *Jackson, J.C. (CB) | 6-1 | 198 | 6 | Maryland | 5/5/0/2 | UFA,NE 22 | CFA NE 18 | Hopes to make good in 2023 after injury-marred season with L.A. |
| 3 | James Jr., Derwin (S) | 6-2 | 215 | 6 | Florida State | 14/14/0/3 | D1 18 | D1 LAC 18 | Made his third All-Pro and Pro-Bowl teams despite missing three games. |
| 41 | Layne, Raheem (S) | 5-11 | 192 | 2 | Indiana | 6/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA LAC 22 | Bolts won five of six games after he was elevated from practice squad. |
| 33 | Leonard, Deane (CB) | 6-0 | 195 | 2 | Mississippi | 17/0 | D7 22 | D7 LAC 22 | Standout on special teams with four tackles and forced a muffed punt. |
| 26 | Samuel Jr., Asante (CB) | 5-10 | 180 | 3 | Florida State | 17/15 | D2 21 | D2 LAC 21 | Second on L.A. with 11 passes defensed and added two interceptions. |
| 36 | Taylor, Ja'Sir (CB) | 5-10 | 185 | 2 | Wake Forest | 17/3 | D6 22 | D6 LAC 22 | Had 16 tackles and a pass defensed over final five games. |
| 22 | Woods, JT (S) | 6-2 | 193 | 2 | Baylor | 10/1/0/7 | D3 22 | D3 LAC 22 | L.A. eager to see him become a more regular contributor in 2023. |
| **SPECIALISTS** | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | Dicker, Cameron (K) | 6-1 | 216 | 2 | Texas | 11/0/0/0 | FA 22 | CFA LAR 22 | Missed only one field-goal attempt and was perfect on 22 extra points as a rookie. |
| 47 | Harris, Josh (LS) | 6-1 | 224 | 11 | Auburn | 17/0/0/0 | UFA,ATL 22 | CFA ATL 12 | Was stellar on a kicking unit that didn't allow a blocked punt. |
| 4 | *Hopkins, Dustin (K) | 6-2 | 193 | 10 | Florida State | 5/0/0/5 | FA 21 | D6 BUFF 13 | Handled kicking duties in five games, with a long of 43. |
| 16 | Scott, JK (P) | 6-5 | 208 | 5 | Alabama | 17/0 | FA 22 | D5 GB 18 | Stellar punter also held on the team's field-goal attempts. |

*Ended 2022 season on reserve.
Games are games played/games started/did not play/inactive in 2022. For How Acq.: D=Draft; SD=Supplemental Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Terrell Bynum (Southern California), Keelan Doss (2, California-Davis), John Hightower (2, Boise State), Pokey Wilson (Florida); TEs Michael Ezeike (UCLA), Hunter Kampmoyer (1, Oregon); Ts Nic Meslop (Delta State), Austen Pleasants (1, Ohio); G Zack Bailey (2, South Carolina); C Johari Branch (Maryland); RBs Tyler Hoosman (North Dakota), Elijah Dotson (Northern Colorado); DE Carlo Kemp (1, Michigan); DT David Moa (1, Boise State); DL Jerrod Clark (Coastal Carolina), Terrance Lang (Colorado); LBs Brevin Allen (Campbell), Nathan East (Samford), Andrew Farmer (Lane), Mikel Jones (Syracuse), Tyreek Maddox-Williams (1, Rutgers), Ty Shelby (1, Louisiana-Monroe); CBs Cam Brown (Ohio State), Michael Jacquet (2, Louisiana-Lafayette), Tiawan Mullen (Indiana), AJ Uzodinma (Ball State); Ss Tyler Baker-Williams (North Carolina State), AJ Finley (Mississippi), Mark Webb Jr. (2, Georgia)



Joey Bosa
Photo by Kirby Lee-USA TODAY Sports

fallout could potentially be more running room for the backs with the defenses often stretched deep.

**RATING: 7.5**

## RECEIVERS

The Chargers possess three envious pass-catchers in Keenan Allen, Mike Williams and Quentin Johnston, a first-round pick who gobbles up yards after the reception. The Chargers embraced the physicality Johnston brings to the position. When adding the sure-handed Ekeler, this is an area that is a clear team strength. But Allen was restricted to 10 games last year with injuries and some are fearful his best days are behind him. Williams continues to produce, but he skipped four games, too, and is coming off a back injury. Joshua Palmer had a breakout year and Jalen Guyton will supply the speed component. Tight ends Gerald Everett and Donald Parham Jr., will also be in the mix.

**RATING: 8**

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

This starting five might be among the best the Chargers have in the Telesco era. Left tackle Rashawn Slater returns after missing most of last year, with Jamaree Salyer moving to left guard after filling in for Slater so well. The experience Salyer, a sixth-round pick absorbed, will benefit his performance this year. Pro-Bowl center Corey Linsley provides the leadership, with Zion Johnson, a first-round pick in 2021 at right guard and a still-improving Trey Pipkins III at right tackle. The Chargers have shed some dead weight and have a line that features the preferred combination of experience and youth. However, the depth is mostly inexperienced, which means it's paramount the starting five stays fit.

**RATING: 8**

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Chargers need better play from this unit as it was among the reasons the defense

## ADDITIONS & LOSSES

**KEY ADDITION:**

**ILB Eric Kendricks**

Kendricks, a nine-year veteran from UCLA, comes home with a clear responsibility: help shore up the leaky run defense. He seems to be a perfect fit, especially after L.A. lost Drue Tranquill in free agency.

**OTHER ADDITIONS:**

None

**KEY LOSS:**

**ILB Drue Tranquill (17/16)***

The Chargers were hoping to bring back Tranquill, last year's top tackler. But when the free-agent compensation for his position accelerated, L.A. had to tap out when considering its salary-cap situation and pivoted to Kendricks.

**OTHER LOSSES:**

**S Nasir Adderley (16/15)**, WR Michael Bandy (10/2), **CB Bryce Callahan (15/11)**, WR DeAndre Carter (17/7), DT Christian Covington (4/0), QB Chase Daniel (4/0), DT Tyeler Davison (6/0), DT Breiden Fehoko (9/3), **G Matt Feiler (17/17)**, DE Joe Gaziano (5/0), DT Forrest Merrill (0/0), T Storm Norton (12/0), LB Troy Reeder (17/0), TE Richard Rodgers (1/0), LB Derrek Tuszka (14/0), **LB Kyle Van Noy (17/13)***

**Total games played/started lost: 181/84**

**STARTERS RETURNING**

17: 10 offense, 7 defense, kicker, punter

*Number in parentheses is games played/started in 2022
Players in bold started at least half the games

## 2022 STATISTICS

MIKE WILLIAMS

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

| Passing | Att | Cmp | Yds | TD | Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Justin Herbert | 699 | 477 | 4739 | 25 | 10 |

| Rushing | Att | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Austin Ekeler | 204 | 915 | 4.5 | 13 |
| Joshua Kelley | 69 | 287 | 4.2 | 2 |
| Justin Herbert | 54 | 147 | 2.7 | 0 |

| Receiving | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mike Williams | 63 | 895 | 14.2 | 4 |
| Josh Palmer | 72 | 769 | 10.7 | 3 |
| Keenan Allen | 66 | 752 | 11.4 | 4 |
| Austin Ekeler | 107 | 722 | 6.8 | 5 |

**Kicking:** Dicker 22/22 XPs, 19/20 FGs, 79 points
**Tackles:** Tranquill 144, James 115, Murray 76
**Sacks:** Mack 8, Fox 6.5, Tranquill 5, Van Noy 5
**INTs:** Callahan 3, Samuel Jr. 2, James 2, Adderley 2

### TEAM STATS

| Offense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 359.3 | 9 |
| Passing Offense | 269.6 | 3 |
| Rushing Offense | 89.6 | 30 |
| Points | 23 | 13 |
| Sacked | 39 | 17 |
| 3rd Down % | 43.6 | 8 |

| Defense | Stat | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Total Defense | 346.1 | 20 |
| Passing Defense | 200.4 | 7 |
| Rushing Defense | 145.8 | 28 |
| Points Allowed | 22.6 | T-21 |
| INTs | 14 | T-12 |
| Sacks | 40 | T-14 |
| Turnover Diff. | +5 | T-7 |

was consistently exposed for its lack of a steady run defense. Sebastian Joseph-Day led the linemen with 56 tackles and Morgan Fox improved as the season progressed. But with Austin Johnson healthy for only eight games and others not playing at a high level, the depth wasn't of the quality required. The Chargers are high on backup Otito Ogbonnia and perhaps Scott Matlock, a sixth-round pick, will surprise. Telesco rebuilt this line heading into the 2022 season and the results weren't what he expected. Despite little change, the Chargers are hopeful with better luck regarding injuries that this area will show vast improvement.

**RATING: 6**

## LINEBACKERS

With Khalil Mack and Joey Bosa blasting off the edges, the Chargers are built to pester quarterbacks. But that scenario only works if Bosa can stiff-arm injuries and Mack, 31, does the same to Father Time. There has been no considerable decline in Mack's production as he paced the Chargers with eight sacks. Bosa, though, started only four games last year and has played a full season in only three of his seven years. Tuli Tuipulotu, a second-round pick, should contribute to the pass-rush. The run-stoppers have to do a better job and that's where Eric Kendricks comes into play. Kendricks, an All-Pro who is familiar with new linebackers coach Jeff Howard from their time together with the Minnesota Vikings, aims for his eighth straight season with 100 tackles. Kenneth Murray Jr. will complement Kendricks, with Daiyan Henley, a third-round selection, at the ready. The Chargers declined to pick up the club option on Murray's rookie contract, so he'll be extra motivated to produce a solid season.

**RATING: 8**

## SECONDARY

Strong safety Derwin James Jr. continues to perform at an elite level with his versatility a perfect fit for Staley's defense. James, despite missing a handful of games, had two interceptions and four sacks while being among the Chargers' best tacklers. Free safety Alohi Gilman continues to make strides and that's encouraging because his backup, JT Woods, is still finding his way. The corner play was exceptional in the second half last season with Michael Davis shining as he replaced J.C. Jackson (knee) and Asante Samuel Jr., tying a team-record with three interceptions in the playoff loss to the Jaguars. If Jackson can return and the pass-rush is keen, the secondary will be one that rivals won't want to face.

**RATING: 8**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

What was long a bugaboo for the Chargers became a source of pride as the kicking game improved. Rookie kicker Cameron Dicker came aboard for the final 10 games and was sensational, providing two game-winning field goals and converting 19-of-20 field-goal attempts, setting the franchise mark for the best percentage. Punter JK Scott finished fourth in the NFL in net yards (41.5) and placed 28 punts (38.4 percent) inside the 20-yard-line. Kelley will likely get the first crack at returning punts and kickoffs, but keep an eye on Derius Davis, a fourth-round pick. He left Texas Christian as its all-time leader by returning five punts for touchdowns.

**RATING: 7**

## INTANGIBLES

The Chargers have pushed their chips toward the middle of the table in their quest for a deep playoff run. It's clear they see a partial closing of a postseason window, with this group anyway, as Allen gets older, the uncertainty of where Ekeler will play after this year and the dwindling days of having Herbert under his affordable rookie deal. With the Rams in a rebuilding mode, the Chargers could capture the hearts of L.A.'s NFL fans with a stellar season.

**RATING: Plus-1**

— Jay Paris

## 3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Keenan Allen and Mike Williams played only 43 snaps together in the first 10 weeks of last season and that has to flip for L.A. to start fast. Allen, who has a huge salary-cap number next year, could be in his last season with the Chargers.

2. New offensive coordinator Kellen Moore is tasked with orchestrating more big plays from an offense that features Justin Herbert. Among the reasons Joe Lombardi was dismissed was the lack of plays that produced chunk yardage. Moore, who came from the Dallas Cowboys, will be more aggressive.

3. J.C. Jackson was an expensive acquisition leading into the 2022 season and L.A. still awaits some dividends. Jackson suffered a serious knee injury that derailed his first season with the Chargers. If he can rebound, a good secondary gets even better.

## 2022 RESULTS

**Record: 10-8**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | LAS VEGAS | 24-19 |
| Sept. 15 | at Kansas City | 24-27 |
| Sept. 25 | JACKSONVILLE | 10-38 |
| Oct. 2 | at Houston | 34-24 |
| Oct. 9 | at Cleveland | 30-28 |
| Oct. 17 | DENVER (OT) | 19-16 |
| Oct. 23 | SEATTLE | 23-37 |
| Nov. 6 | at Atlanta | 20-17 |
| Nov. 13 | at San Francisco | 16-22 |
| Nov. 20 | KANSAS CITY | 27-30 |
| Nov. 27 | at Arizona | 25-24 |
| Dec. 4 | at Las Vegas | 20-27 |
| Dec. 11 | MIAMI | 23-17 |
| Dec. 18 | TENNESSEE | 17-14 |
| Dec. 26 | at Indianapolis | 20-3 |
| Jan. 1 | L.A. RAMS | 31-10 |
| Jan. 8 | at Denver | 28-31 |
| Jan. 14 | at Jacksonville (Sat) | 30-31 |

## 2023 SCHEDULE

**All times Pacific**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 12 | at L.A. Rams (Sat) | 6:00 |
| Aug. 20 | NEW ORLEANS (Sun) | 4:05 |
| Aug. 24-27 | at San Francisco | TBD |
| Sept. 10 | MIAMI | 1:25 |
| Sept. 17 | at Tennessee | 10:00 |
| Sept. 24 | at Minnesota | 10:00 |
| Oct. 1 | LAS VEGAS | 1:05 |
| | BYE | |
| Oct. 16 | DALLAS (Mon) | 5:15 |
| Oct. 22 | at Kansas City | 1:25 |
| Oct. 29 | CHICAGO | 5:20 |
| Nov. 6 | at N.Y. Jets (Mon) | 5:15 |
| Nov. 12 | DETROIT | 1:05 |
| Nov. 19 | at Green Bay | 10:00 |
| Nov. 26 | BALTIMORE | 5:20 |
| Dec. 3 | at New England | 10:00 |
| Dec. 10 | DENVER | 1:25 |
| Dec. 14 | at Las Vegas (Thu) | 5:15 |
| Dec. 23 | BUFFALO (Sat) | 5:00 |
| Dec. 31 | at Denver | 1:25 |
| TBD | KANSAS CITY | TBD |

# RATING THE TEAMS

The following chart is a compilation of the position ratings for each team that were included in the preview stories. Each unit is rated on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest. Intangibles had a plus or minus of no more than 1. That figure was added or subtracted from the total of all positions.

| | COACH | QB | RB | REC | OL | DL | LB | SEC | ST | INT | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **NFC EAST** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Philadelphia | 8.0 | 9.0 | 7.5 | 8.0 | 8.5 | 9.0 | 7.0 | 7.5 | 7.5 | -1 | 71.0 |
| Dallas | 7.0 | 8.0 | 7.0 | 6.0 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 6.0 | 9.0 | 6.0 | +1 | 65.0 |
| N.Y. Giants | 7.5 | 7.5 | 9.0 | 7.5 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 7.0 | 6.0 | -1 | 64.0 |
| Washington | 7.5 | 6.5 | 7.0 | 7.5 | 6.5 | 8.0 | 6.5 | 6.0 | 7.0 | +1 | 63.5 |
| **NFC NORTH** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Detroit | 8.0 | 7.5 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 9.0 | 7.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 8.0 | +1 | 66.0 |
| Minnesota | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 8.0 | 7.5 | 6.5 | 8.0 | 6.0 | 7.5 | -1 | 65.0 |
| Green Bay | 8.0 | 6.5 | 8.0 | 6.0 | 8.0 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 7.0 | 6.0 | +1 | 64.0 |
| Chicago | 7.0 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 7.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 8.0 | 7.5 | 7.5 | -1 | 63.0 |
| **NFC SOUTH** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| New Orleans | 7.0 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.0 | 7.5 | 7.0 | 7.5 | 8.0 | 6.5 | +1 | 66.5 |
| Carolina | 7.5 | 7.0 | 7.5 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 6.0 | 8.0 | +1 | 66.0 |
| Atlanta | 7.5 | 6.5 | 7.5 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.5 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 8.0 | +1 | 66.0 |
| Tampa Bay | 7.0 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 8.0 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 8.0 | 7.5 | 7.5 | -1 | 63.5 |
| **NFC WEST** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| San Francisco | 8.0 | 7.0 | 9.0 | 8.0 | 7.5 | 9.0 | 8.5 | 7.5 | 7.0 | -1 | 70.5 |
| Seattle | 8.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 8.0 | 7.0 | 6.0 | 6.5 | 7.5 | 8.0 | +1 | 67.5 |
| Los Angeles | 8.0 | 7.5 | 7.0 | 7.5 | 6.0 | 8.0 | 6.5 | 7.5 | 5.0 | +1 | 64.0 |
| Arizona | 6.5 | 6.5 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 6.0 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 6.0 | -1 | 59.0 |
| **AFC EAST** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Buffalo | 7.5 | 9.0 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 8.5 | 8.5 | +1 | 70.0 |
| Miami | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 9.0 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 7.5 | 8.0 | 7.0 | +1 | 70.0 |
| New England | 9.0 | 7.0 | 7.5 | 7.0 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.0 | 7.5 | +1 | 68.5 |
| N.Y. Jets | 7.0 | 8.5 | 7.0 | 7.5 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.5 | 7.0 | +1 | 66.5 |
| **AFC NORTH** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Baltimore | 8.0 | 8.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 8.5 | 7.0 | 7.5 | 8.0 | 9.0 | +1 | 72.5 |
| Cincinnati | 8.0 | 8.5 | 6.5 | 9.5 | 7.5 | 8.0 | 7.5 | 7.0 | 7.0 | +1 | 70.5 |
| Cleveland | 7.5 | 8.0 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 8.0 | 7.0 | 6.0 | 8.0 | 8.0 | +1 | 68.5 |
| Pittsburgh | 8.0 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 6.0 | 7.5 | 8.0 | 7.0 | 6.5 | +1 | 64.5 |
| **AFC SOUTH** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jacksonville | 8.0 | 7.5 | 7.0 | 7.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.5 | +1 | 65.5 |
| Houston | 7.0 | 6.5 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | +1 | 63.0 |
| Tennessee | 8.0 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 8.0 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 6.0 | -1 | 61.5 |
| Indianapolis | 7.0 | 6.0 | 7.5 | 6.5 | 7.0 | 7.5 | 7.0 | 6.0 | 8.0 | -1 | 61.5 |
| **AFC WEST** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kansas City | 9.5 | 9.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 6.5 | 7.0 | 7.0 | +1 | 71.5 |
| Los Angeles | 7.0 | 9.0 | 7.5 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 6.0 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 7.0 | +1 | 69.5 |
| Las Vegas | 7.0 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 8.5 | E | 65.5 |
| Denver | 8.0 | 7.0 | 6.0 | 7.0 | 7.5 | 6.5 | 7.0 | 8.5 | 7.0 | +1 | 65.5 |

Key: QB=Quarterbacks; RB=Running Backs; REC=Wide Receivers/Tight Ends; OL=Offensive Linemen; DL=Defensive Linemen; LB=Linebackers; SEC=Secondary; ST=Special Teams; INT=Intangibles

# 2023 FANTASY FOOTBALL GUIDE

By Ric Serritella

# THE BEST OF FANTASY

No matter what format of fantasy football you participate in, one constant remains the same: Studs will guide you to the taste of victory. There has been a changing of the guard at quarterback in recent years, an influx of young receivers and many of the usual suspects at running back. Here are the cream of the crop heading into the 2023 season.

## The Arms Race

There are about a half-dozen quarterbacks we can feel highly confident about and then it gets a bit dicey. Here are the top 20 signal-callers.

1. **Patrick Mahomes, Chiefs:** The current "King of the Rings," Mahomes can also help anchor your fantasy squad to a championship.
2. **Josh Allen, Bills:** A durable, dual-threat quarterback, Allen has proven his toughness by playing through injury and producing at a high level consistently.
3. **Jalen Hurts, Eagles:** Prior to a late season injury, Hurts catapulted into the upper echelon of NFL signal-callers. His ability to score via the air or ground enables him to post points in bunches.
4. **Joe Burrow, Bengals:** An ascending player, Burrow figures to be atop this list for the next decade. He is comparable to the others listed above him and will register similar numbers.
5. **Trevor Lawrence, Jaguars:** It was refreshing to see the Doug Pederson-led staff build an offense around the skill-set of Lawrence, as he flashed glimpses of greatness.
6. **Justin Herbert, Chargers:** This is a high-octane offense that is going to move efficiently, rack up yards and be able to light up the scoreboard in a jiffy. Investing in Herbert is a smart move.
7. **Justin Fields, Bears:** No one is positioned to rise more than Fields, who is the ultimate fantasy boom or bust play. His later-round value can pay huge dividends.
8. **Jared Goff, Lions:** It appears that Goff has very quietly re-elevated himself among the group of top starting quarterbacks around the league during his time in Motown.
9. **Lamar Jackson, Ravens:** When all is well, Jackson has proven to produce at an MVP level. With a stronger supporting cast around him, a big bounce-back year could be in store.
10. **Dak Prescott, Cowboys:** If healthy, Prescott has proven to be among the league leaders in all passing categories, but buyer beware; he has missed 16 games over the past three seasons.
11. **Kirk Cousins, Vikings:** While it hasn't always looked pretty, Cousins has averaged 4,264 passing yards and 30 touchdowns over the past eight seasons, making him a beam of consistency.
12. **Deshaun Watson, Browns:** It would surprise no one if Watson winds up toward the top of the list. However, the rust was apparent during his mid-season return. He needs to show us otherwise.
13. **Geno Smith, Seahawks:** After being the NFL Comeback Player of the Year, get ready for Geno redux. Not the flashiest, but the results are there.
14. **Tua Tagovailoa, Dolphins:** In three full seasons, Tagovailoa has yet to stay healthy for an entire year. When he does, watch out; he has MVP caliber-type talent in this offense.
15. **Matthew Stafford, Rams:** Just two seasons removed from tossing 41 touchdowns and nearly 5,000 passing yards, the Super Bowl champ should not be counted out.
16. **Daniel Jones, Giants:** It was all sizzle the first half of the season for Jones, but once the league caught up to him, the second half of the year was more fizzle. Can he sustain?
17. **Kenny Pickett, Steelers:** The Jersey Shore gunslinger made great strides as a rookie. He looks poised to take the next step in his development and is sneaky good when he tucks the ball.
18. **Russell Wilson, Broncos:** What happens when two future Pro Football Hall of Fame candidates connect in Wilson and Sean Payton? FF owners willing to find out could reap the reward.
19. **Brock Purdy, 49ers:** It was a mythical rookie season for Purdy, who was lights out. Was he a one-year wonder? Can his throwing shoulder hold up? There are more questions than answers.
20. **Kyler Murray, Cardinals:** Unknown when he will play, but could be someone to store for second half of the season.

## Good Hands People

We are currently living in the golden era of wideouts and there are nearly a dozen different players who could lead the league in receiving. It's a dandy of a top 20.

1. **Justin Jefferson, Vikings:** Could this be the year of JJ2K?
2. **Ja'Marr Chase, Bengals:** Has compiled a whopping 2,500 yards and 22 touchdowns in his first two seasons.
3. **Tyreek Hill, Dolphins:** The Cheetah brings top-gun speed; 71 percent of his catches last year went for first downs or touchdowns.
4. **Stefon Diggs, Bills:** One of the best route runners in the league, Diggs is a model of consistency.
5. **Cooper Kupp, Rams:** Could ultimately become the best of the bunch, but Kupp did undergo offseason ankle surgery.
6. **Davante Adams, Raiders:** Look for Adams to suffer from the efficient but limited arm of Jimmy Garoppolo.
7. **A.J. Brown, Eagles:** A man among boys, few deliver more yards after contact than the physical Brown.
8. **Jaylen Waddle, Dolphins:** Led the NFL with a whopping 18.1 yards per catch; could be even better in Year 3.
9. **CeeDee Lamb, Cowboys:** Has made great strides in each of his first three seasons and should continue that trend.
10. **Deebo Samuel, 49ers:** A bounce-back year could help restore Deebo back atop the rankings.
11. **Brandon Aiyuk, 49ers:** The targets tend to fluctuate; hopefully stability at quarterback can help.
12. **DeAndre Hopkins, Cardinals:** The past two seasons have been taxing on Hopkins who has missed 15 games during that span. Where will he play?
13. **Tyler Lockett, Seahawks:** Enters 2023 with four straight seasons of at least 1,000 yards and eight touchdowns.
14. **Amari Cooper, Browns:** Delivered with nine scores in Year 1 with Cleveland; look for more in Year 2.
15. **Christian Kirk, Jaguars:** One of the best acquisitions from last offseason, Kirk is in his prime.
16. **Amon-Ra St. Brown, Lions:** Emerged as one of the league's most dangerous slot weapons.
17. **DeVonta Smith, Eagles:** The often reserved Smith delivers with a workmanlike demeanor.
18. **DK Metcalf, Seahawks:** One of the most difficult players to defend in the NFL.
19. **Tee Higgins, Bengals:** Takes full advantage of his one-on-one opportunities.
20. **Mike Evans, Buccaneers:** Has compiled a Hall of Fame worthy resume.

## Run Up the Points

An extra game certainly helped, but the NFL saw a renaissance of sorts with 16 1,000-yard rushers in 2022, up from just seven the year before. Could we see more from our list of top 20?

1. **Josh Jacobs, Raiders:** Should have received MVP consideration with nearly 400 touches and over 2,000 all-purpose yards.
2. **Christian McCaffrey, 49ers:** The impact of Run CMC on the offense in both the run and pass attack has been marvelous.

3. **Nick Chubb, Browns:** Despite the accumulation of carries, Chubb has proved durable, starting every game last year.
4. **Jonathan Taylor, Colts:** With a new quarterback in tow, Taylor plans to tote the rock early and often, but the offensive line must step up.
5. **Austin Ekeler, Chargers:** One of the most versatile players in the NFL, Ekeler gets his yards in an array of ways.
6. **Saquon Barkley, Giants:** For the first time since his rookie season, Barkley managed to start 16 games and regained his menacing demeanor.
7. **Alvin Kamara, Saints:** Not the explosive threat he once was, Kamara still poses as one of the top running/receiving combo backs in the NFL.
8. **Derrick Henry, Titans:** The history of the NFL has shown us that 2,000-yard rushers break down shortly thereafter and Henry is no different.
9. **Rhamondre Stevenson, Patriots:** Expect Stevenson to blaze a path toward the top of the league leaders; he may wind up higher.
10. **Tony Pollard, Cowboys:** Giddy up; Pollard has developed into an explosive playmaker for Dallas.
11. **Travis Etienne, Jaguars:** Proved his worth after beating out James Robinson as the feature back.
12. **Joe Mixon, Bengals:** The Bengals dodged a bullet when gun charges against Mixon were dismissed during the offseason. He still remains the lead back in an elite offense.
13. **Dalvin Cook, Vikings:** With 250 carries in each of the past four seasons, the tread on the tires may be wearing thin.
14. **Aaron Jones, Packers:** Few runners maximize their touches more than Jones who averaged 5.3 yards per carry and had five receiving touchdowns.
15. **Kenneth Walker, Seahawks:** Is Walker a budding superstar? He sure played like it in spurts as a rookie.
16. **Isiah Pacheco, Chiefs:** Pacheco will be grinding out the tough yardage for Kansas City.
17. **Najee Harris, Steelers:** There has been plenty of criticism for Harris, but he's only as good as his offensive line. He has very quietly posted back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons, while totaling over 3,000 yards.
18. **Dameon Pierce, Texans:** One of the brightest rookies before suffering a season-ending ankle injury.
19. **Jeff Wilson Jr., Dolphins:** One of Mike McDaniel's San Francisco imports, Wilson is sure to receive his fair share of touches.
20. **AJ Dillon, Packers:** The red zone carries are always going to be there for the tank, Dillon, who has seven scores in each of the past two seasons.

# Up Tight, Outta Sight

After Kelce and Kittle, you can let the tight-end board play out. There are sure to be mid-round value plays. Monitor some of the young talent who cracked the top 15.

1. **Travis Kelce, Chiefs:** With seven straight seasons of at least 1,000 yards and 32 touchdowns over the past three seasons, Kelce is an easy choice.
2. **George Kittle, 49ers:** Despite injuries, it's hard to argue with the production from Kittle, who scored 11 touchdowns in 15 games a year ago.
3. **T.J. Hockenson, Vikings:** After a midseason trade within the division, Hockenson has seemed to settle into his new home nicely.
4. **Mark Andrews, Ravens:** A tall, athletic mismatch, his production dipped last season due to the quarterback situation, but he can dominate the rim.
5. **Kyle Pitts, Falcons:** The reports have been positive for Pitts, who is coming off a season-ending knee injury. He owns huge upside.
6. **Juwan Johnson, Saints:** A former wideout, Johnson gained over 500 yards and had seven touchdowns in just 12 starts.
7. **Pat Freiermuth, Steelers:** A dependable target who has shown vast improvement, Freiermuth should continue to shine.
8. **Evan Engram, Jaguars:** Thrived in his first year in Jacksonville; stock up.
9. **Taysom Hill, Saints:** Still a multi-dimensional weapon capable of busting out when called upon.
10. **Cole Kmet, Bears:** A potential touchdown machine if utilized properly, Kmet is a breakout candidate waiting to happen.
11. **David Njoku, Browns:** Improved route running and athleticism has finally begun to pay off.
12. **Greg Dulcich, Broncos:** An ascending player flying under the radar; don't be surprised if Dulcich outplays this spot.
13. **Chigoziem Okonkwo, Titans:** The outlook is bright for Okonkwo, who started eight games as a rookie and showed great promise.
14. **Zach Ertz, Cardinals:** Don't expect vintage Ertz, but he can still get it done in spurts, as he enters Year 12, but is coming back from ACL surgery.
15. **Dawson Knox, Bills:** Seems to have a handful of big games each season; buy-in on the Josh Allen timeshare.

# You'll Get A Kick Out of These Guys

Finding a known commodity is the most vital ingredient when selecting a kicker. Consistency is key. Here are 10 who'll do it again.

1. **Justin Tucker, Ravens:** Who doesn't like a potential future HOF candidate as their kicker?
2. **Jason Myers, Seahawks:** Seattle was able to run points on the board and Myers benefits from Lumen Field.
3. **Tyler Bass, Bills:** Enjoy the ride and circle the wagons of the Buffalo offense.
4. **Evan McPherson, Bengals:** Look for "Shooter" to reload for a super run.
5. **Brandon McManus, Broncos:** Still one of the most accurate long-ball kickers in the league.
6. **Graham Gano, Giants:** Big Blue tends to leave touchdowns on the field, which leads to Gano.
7. **Greg Zuerlein, Jets:** With A-Rod pulling the trigger, Gang Green will have a new-look offense.
8. **Younghoe Koo, Falcons:** After bouncing around the league, Koo has found a home in Atlanta.
9. **Jason Sanders, Dolphins:** The run and gun show in Miami is going to generate lots of points on the scoreboard.
10. **Daniel Carlson, Raiders:** Has become one of the most dependable kickers in football, especially from deep.

# Old Faces, New Places

The uniforms might have changed, but the names remain the same. Here's a look at notable players on the move this offseason.

1. **Aaron Rodgers, QB, Jets:** Hard to believe it's déjà vu all over again in "The Big Apple." Rodgers follows in the identical footsteps as his predecessor Brett Favre, 15 years later at age 39.
2. **Derek Carr, QB, Saints:** A solid ground game and formidable weapons to throw to should make for a smooth transition from the desert to the bayou for Carr.
3. **Jimmy Garoppolo, QB, Raiders:** Captain Garoppolo should step right in and have full command of Josh McDaniels' offense.
4. **Jamaal Williams, RB, Saints:** The gritty, hard-nosed Williams should fit in quite well with New Orleans and knows how to sniff out pay-dirt.
5. **Baker Mayfield, QB, Buccaneers:** The oven-baked Mayfield played well in spurts during his Rams audition.
6. **Miles Sanders, RB, Panthers:** Coming off a career year in Philly, Sanders cashed in and made a dash to Carolina.
7. **D'Onta Foreman, RB, Bears:** A bruising back to step into the role of David Montgomery who departed to Detroit.
8. **David Montgomery, RB, Lions:** With Jamaal Williams' departure, in steps Montgomery.
9. **Dalton Schultz, TE, Texans:** Signed with a new team; remains in The Lone Star State and should produce similar results.
10. **Chase Edmonds, RB, Buccaneers:** Look for the Bucs to defer to the ground game more than most, which benefits Edmonds.
11. **James Robinson, RB, Patriots:** A similar runner to New England folklore hero Antowain Smith.
12. **Rashaad Penny, RB, Eagles:** Could excel behind one of the best offensive lines in the NFL.
13. **D'Andre Swift, RB, Eagles:** He and Penny will be an interesting timeshare in Philadelphia.
14. **Samaje Perine, RB, Broncos:** A dependable veteran who can run/catch/block, Perine is the ultimate backup.
15. **Odell Beckham Jr., WR, Ravens:** Immediately steps into WR1 role.
16. **DJ Moore, WR, Bears:** The most dangerous weapon the Bears have had during the Justin Fields era.
17. **Jakobi Meyers, WR, Raiders:** One of the highest-paid free-agent wideouts this offseason.
18. **Allen Lazard, WR, Jets:** Reunites with Rodgers for familiarity.
19. **JuJu Smith-Schuster, WR, Patriots:** Steps into a much-needed role of playmaker.
20. **Brandin Cooks, WR, Cowboys:** An excellent complementary wideout who can benefit from mismatches.
21. **Robert Woods, WR, Texans:** Looks to become a main dog in H-Town.
22. **Adam Thielen, WR, Panthers:** A savvy veteran who can provide security for a young signal-caller.
23. **DJ Chark, WR, Panthers:** The more experience the merrier in Carolina.
24. **Darren Waller, Giants:** If everything is right mentally and physically with Waller, it's all systems go. He can explode in any given week.
25. **Elijah Moore, WR, Browns:** It never quite panned out for Moore on Broadway; a change of scenery could benefit him.
26. **Hayden Hurst, TE, Panthers:** Setting up their franchise signal-caller for success.
27. **Mike Gesicki, TE, Patriots:** A system that will maximize his pass-catching prowess.

28. **O.J. Howard, TE, Raiders:** There are targets to be had at tight end in "The Desert."
29. **Irv Smith Jr., TE, Bengals:** Part of the Burrow timeshare.
30. **Jordan Akins, TE, Browns:** An underestimated pass-catcher who can find the end zone.

## Catch A Rising Star

Knowing which rookies to nab late in your fantasy draft can help put your squad over the top. Be sure to analyze the situations and schemes they land in.

1. **Bijan Robinson, RB, Falcons:** A dynamic, multi-faceted weapon, Robinson can do it all and lands with a team that loves to run.
2. **Jahmyr Gibbs, RB, Lions:** Don't underestimate the impact of Gibbs, who is a jitterbug runner with big-time swag.
3. **Zay Flowers, WR, Ravens:** This selection seems to fit like a glove. Flowers should be in Rookie of the Year contention.
4. **Jaxson Smith-Njigba, WR, Seahawks:** Possibly the biggest playmaker in the draft, but goes to a loaded Seahawks squad.
5. **Jordan Addison, WR, Vikings:** Expected to see plenty of targets early and often, should benefit from single coverage.
6. **Zach Charbonnet, RB, Seahawks:** Should receive the short-yardage and goal-line work.
7. **Bryce Young, QB, Panthers:** Projects as Week 1 starter; enters a situation that has solid foundation.
8. **Dalton Kincaid, TE, Bills:** Could emerge as Josh Allen's No. 2 target in time.
9. **Tyjae Spears, RB, Titans:** A perfect slash to the bash of Derrick Henry; could see more carries than expected.
10. **Devon Achane, RB, Dolphins:** Will be part of a time-share backfield that could be beneficial.
11. **C.J. Stroud, QB, Texans:** Growing pains are to be expected in Year 1, but Stroud could stabilize the ship.
12. **Michael Mayer, TE, Raiders:** A polished player who is ready to contribute right away.
13. **Tank Dell, WR, Texans:** The speedy slot weapon could be good for a couple of long scores.
14. **Jalin Hyatt, WR, Giants:** Look for Hyatt to ascend up the depth chart rapidly.
15. **Quentin Johnston, WR, Chargers:** How many balls left over for Johnston remains to be seen.
16. **Sam LaPorta, TE, Lions:** Could thrive as red-zone target and fills a huge void.
17. **Rashee Rice, WR, Chiefs:** Any time a wide receiver is selected by KC, you should pay attention.
18. **Anthony Richardson, QB, Colts:** Could get handed the keys by the second half of the season.
19. **Zach Evans, RB, Rams:** The Rams have been known to ride the hot hand on any given week.
20. **Darnell Washington, TE, Steelers:** A luxury more than a necessity, Washington will make plays.
21. **Luke Musgrave, TE, Packers:** Can be an explosive pass-catcher if he can stay healthy.
22. **Josh Downs, WR, Colts:** A dynamic slot weapon who is slippery in space.
23. **Cedric Tillman, WR, Browns:** A big, physical, fast wideout with superb size and speed.
24. **Tre Tucker, WR, Raiders:** A burner-type slot weapon who fits the system.
25. **Jake Moody, K, 49ers:** Third-round pick will likely get lots of opportunity complementing 49ers offense.

# 2022 FANTASY STATS

Because Fantasy Football leagues play by a variety of rules, this statistical section provides information to fit most any system. The statistics are for the 2022 regular season. For touchdowns and field goals, the figure in parentheses is the total number; the figures following indicate the length of each score. For milestone games (100 yards rushing and receiving, 300 yards passing), the figure in parentheses is the total number of such efforts and the other numbers indicate each individual total. The team designation indicates where the player was in 2022. If there is a team in parentheses, that indicates the player's new team. If there is the abbreviation FA in parentheses, that player was released by his last team or not tendered a qualifying offer. If there is the abbreviation UFA in parentheses, that player is an unrestricted free agent.

*HAPPY DRAFTING!*

## RUNNING BACKS

**ABDULLAH, Las Vegas**
TDs receiving (1) – 18

**AHMED, Miami**
TDs rushing (1) – 11

**AKERS, L.A. Rams**
TDs rushing (7) – 1 (2), 2 (2), 4, 6, 14
100-yard rushing games (3) – 104, 118, 123

**ALLGEIER, Atlanta**
TDs rushing (3) – 1, 5 (2)
100-yard rushing games (2) – 135, 139
TDs receiving (1) – 25

**BADIE, Denver**
TDs receiving (1) – 24

**BARKLEY, N.Y. Giants (FFA)**
TDs rushing (10) – 1 (3), 2 (2), 3, 4, 13, 27, 36
100-yard rushing games (4) – 110, 146, 152, 164

**BENJAMIN, Arizona/Houston/New Orleans**
TDs rushing (2) – 5, 11

**BLACKSHEAR, Carolina**
TDs rushing (3) – 2, 7, 8

**BOLDEN, Las Vegas**
TDs receiving (1) – 18

**BREIDA, N.Y. Giants**
TDs rushing (1) – 3

**BRIGHTWELL, N.Y. Giants**
TDs rushing (1) – 2

**BURKHEAD, Houston (UFA)**
TDs receiving (1) – 8
TDs fumble recovery (1) – 0

**BROWN, L.A. Rams (UFA)**
TDs rushing (1) – 23

**CARTER, N.Y. Jets**
TDs rushing (3) – 1 (2), 6

**CHUBB, Cleveland**
TDs rushing (12) – 1, 2 (2), 3 (2), 4, 7, 11, 12, 28, 33, 41
100-yard rushing games (7) – 101, 104, 113, 116, 118, 134, 141
TDs receiving (1) – 2

**CLEMENT, Arizona**
TDs rushing (1) – 1

**COLEMAN, San Francisco (FA)**
TDs rushing (1) – 5
TDs receiving (1) – 9

**CONNER, Arizona**
TDs rushing (7) – 1, 2 (2), 4, 9, 10, 22
100-yard rushing games (1) – 120
TDs receiving (1) – 6

**CONNER, Jacksonville**
TDs rushing (1) – 3

**COOK, Buffalo**
TDs rushing (2) – 24, 27
TDs receiving (1) – 4

**COOK, Minnesota**
TDs rushing (8) – 1 (2), 4 (3), 5, 53, 81
100-yard rushing games (2) – 111, 119
TDs receiving (2) – 12, 64

**DAVIS, Dallas**
TDs rushing (1) – 23

**DILLON, Green Bay**
TDs rushing (7) – 1 (2), 2 (2), 8, 20, 21

**DOBBINS, Baltimore**
TDs rushing (2) – 4 (2)
100-yard rushing games (2) – 120, 125
TDs receiving (1) – 1

**DRAKE, Baltimore (UFA)**
TDs rushing (4) – 1, 3, 4, 30
100-yard rushing games (1) – 119
TDs receiving (1) – 5

**EDMONDS, Miami/Denver (Tampa Bay)**
TDs rushing (2) – 1, 3
TDs receiving (1) – 7

**EDWARDS, Baltimore**
100-yard rushing games (3) – 1 (2), 7

**EDWARDS-HELAIRE, Kansas City**
TDs rushing (3) – 1, 3, 16
TDs receiving (3) – 2, 3, 4

**EKELER, L.A. Chargers**
TDs rushing (13) – 1 (4), 2, 3, 6, 7, 10 (2), 20, 22, 72
100-yard rushing games (2) – 122, 173
TDs receiving (5) – 1 (3), 12, 14

**ELLIOTT, Dallas (FA)**
TDs rushing (12) – 1 (7), 2, 4, 6, 10, 14

**ETIENNE, Jacksonville**
TDs rushing (5) – 1 (2), 5, 7, 62
100-yard rushing games (5) – 103, 108, 109, 114, 156

**EVANS, Cincinnati**
TDs receiving (1) – 8

**FOREMAN, Carolina (Chicago)**
TDs rushing (5) – 1, 2, 4, 12 (2)
100-yard rushing games (4) – 113, 118, 130, 165

**FOURNETTE, Tampa Bay (FA)**
TDs rushing (3) – 1 (3)
100-yard rushing games (1) – 127
TDs receiving (3) – 1, 5, 11

**GAINWELL, Philadelphia**
TDs rushing (4) – 2, 4 (2), 10

**GIBSON, Washington**
TDs rushing (3) – 1 (3)
TDs receiving (2) – 9 (2)

**GILLIAM, Buffalo**
TDs receiving (1) – 11

**GORDON, Denver (FA)**
TDs rushing (2) – 1 (2)

**HALL, N.Y. Jets**
TDs rushing (4) – 2, 5, 34, 62
100-yard rushing games (1) – 116
TDs receiving (1) – 10
100-yard receiving games (1) – 100

**HAM, Minnesota**
TDs rushing (2) – 1, 3

**D. HARRIS, New England (Buffalo)**
TDs rushing (3) – 2 (2), 5

**K. HARRIS, New England**
TDs rushing (1) – 14

**HARRIS, Pittsburgh**
TDs rushing (7) – 1 (2), 4, 5, 6, 7, 19
100-yard rushing games (1) – 111
TDs receiving (3) – 1, 6, 10

**HASTY, Jacksonville**
TDs rushing (2) – 5, 61
TDs receiving (1) – 28

**HENDERSON, L.A. Rams/Jacksonville (FA)**
TDs rushing (3) – 2, 3, 4

**HENRY, Tennessee**
TDs rushing (13) – 1 (5), 2, 3, 4 (3), 19, 29, 48
100-yard rushing games (9) – 102, 104, 109, 114, 115, 121, 126, 128, 219
TDs passing (1) – 3

**HERBERT, Chicago**
TDs rushing (4) – 1, 3, 11, 12
100-yard rushing games (1) – 157
TDs receiving (1) – 25

**HEYWARD, Pittsburgh**
TDs receiving (1) – 17

**HINES, Indianapolis/Buffalo**
TDs rushing (1) – 6
TDs receiving (1) – 10
TDs KOR (2) – 96, 101

**HOMER, Seattle (Chicago)**
TDs receiving (1) – 18

**HORVATH, L.A. Chargers**
TDs receiving (2) – 1 (2)

**HUBBARD, Carolina**
TDs rushing (2) – 2, 17
100-yard rushing games (1) – 125

**HUNT, Cleveland (UFA)**
TDs rushing (3) – 2 (2), 24
TDs receiving (1) – 1

**HUNTLEY, Atlanta**
TDs rushing (1) – 5

**INGOLD, MIAMI**
TDs rushing (1) – 1
TDs receiving (1) – 13

**INGRAM, Arizona**
TDs rushing (1) – 2

**INGRAM, New Orleans (UFA)**
TDs rushing (1) – 5

**JACKSON, Detroit (UFA)**
TDs rushing (1) – 15
TDs receiving (1) – 2

**JACKSON, Indianapolis**
TDs rushing (1) – 3
TDs receiving (1) – 1

**JACOBS, Las Vegas**
TDs rushing (12) – 1 (4), 4, 7 (2), 10, 15, 20, 30, 86
100-yard rushing games (6) – 109, 143, 144 (2), 154, 229

**JOHNSON, N.Y. Jets**
TDs rushing (1) – 32

**JONES, Green Bay**
TDs rushing (2) – 12, 15
100-yard rushing games (5) – 110, 111, 132, 138, 143
TDs receiving (5) – 4, 7, 8, 21, 23

**JONES, Kansas City (Dallas)**
TDs rushing (1) – 2

**JUSZCZYK, San Francisco**
TDs rushing (1) – 1
TDs receiving (1) – 3

**KAMARA, New Orleans**
TDs rushing (2) – 3, 4
100-yard rushing games (2) – 103, 107
TDs receiving (2) – 16, 36

**KELLEY, L.A. Chargers**
TDs rushing (2) – 1, 5

**KNIGHT, N.Y. Jets**
TDs rushing (1) – 13

**MACK, San Francisco/Denver (UFA)**
TDs rushing (1) – 3
TDs receiving (1) – 66

**MASON, San Francisco**
TDs rushing (1) – 14

**MATTISON, Minnesota**
TDs rushing (5) – 1 (2), 6, 7, 14
TDs receiving (1) – 15

**McCAFFREY, Carolina/San Francisco**
TDs rushing (8) – 1 (4), 2, 14, 19, 38
100-yard rushing games (5) – 102, 108 (2), 119, 121
TDs receiving (5) – 3, 9, 13, 21, 27
TDs passing (1) – 34

**McKINNON, Kansas City**
TDs rushing (1) – 26
100-yard receiving games (1) – 112
TDs receiving (9) – 2 (2), 3, 6, 9 (2), 10, 20, 56

**MIXON, Cincinnati**
TDs rushing (7) – 1 (3), 2, 3, 5, 14
100-yard rushing games (1) – 153
TDs receiving (2) – 9, 12

**MITCHELL, San Francisco**
TDs rushing (2) – 5, 6

**MONTGOMERY, Chicago (Detroit)**
TDs rushing (5) – 1, 2, 7, 9 (2)
100-yard rushing games (1) – 122
TDs receiving (1) – 10

**MOSS, Buffalo/Indianapolis**
TDs rushing (1) – 15
100-yard rushing games (1) – 114

**MOSTERT, Miami**
TDs rushing (3) – 1, 12, 24
100-yard rushing games (2) – 113, 136
TDs receiving (2) – 2, 8

**MURRAY, New Orleans/Denver (Buffalo)**
TDs rushing (6) – 1 (2), 2 (3), 10
100-yard rushing games (2) – 103, 130

**NWANGWU, Minnesota**
TDs KOR (1) – 97

**OGUNBOWALE, Houston**
TDs rushing (1) – 3

**PACHECO, Kansas City**
TDs rushing (5) – 1, 3 (2), 5, 8
100-yard rushing games (1) – 107

**PATTERSON, Atlanta**
TDs rushing (8) – 1, 2, 3 (2), 5 (2), 13, 17
100-yard rushing games (2) – 120, 141
TDs KOR (1) – 103

**PENNY, Seattle (Philadelphia)**
TDs rushing (2) – 36, 41
100-yard rushing games (1) – 151

**PERINE, Cincinnati (Denver)**
TDs rushing (2) – 6, 7
100-yard rushing games (1) – 106
TDs receiving (4) – 6, 11, 12, 29

**PIERCE, Houston**
TDs rushing (4) – 1 (3), 75
TDs receiving (1) – 3
100-yard rushing games (2) – 131, 139

**POLLARD, Dallas**
TDs rushing (9) – 1, 2, 7, 11, 13, 16, 30, 54, 57
100-yard rushing games (3) – 105, 115, 131
TDs receiving (3) – 10, 30, 68
100-yard receiving games (1) – 109

**ROBINSON, Jacksonville/N.Y. Jets (New England)**
TDs rushing (3) – 11, 37, 50
100-yard rushing games (1) – 100
TDs receiving (2) – 3, 7

**ROBINSON, Washington**
TDs rushing (2) – 1 (2)
100-yard rushing games (1) – 105
TDs receiving (1) – 14

**SANDERS, Philadelphia (Carolina)**
TDs rushing (11) – 1, 2 (2), 3 (2), 5 (2), 10, 11, 15, 40
100-yard rushing games (3) – 134, 143, 144

**SCOTT, Philadelphia**
TDs rushing (3) – 1, 3, 8

**SINGLETARY, Buffalo (Houston)**
TDs rushing (5) – 1 (2), 5 (2), 33
100-yard rushing games (1) – 106
TDs receiving (1) – 2

**SNELL, Pittsburgh (UFA)**
TDs rushing (1) – 2

**STEVENSON, New England**
TDs rushing (5) – 1, 4, 6, 31, 34
100-yard rushing games (2) – 161, 172
TDs receiving (1) – 3

**STRONG, New England**
TDs rushing (1) – 3

**SWIFT, Detroit (Philadelphia)**
TDs rushing (5) – 1, 4, 7, 9, 17
100-yard rushing games (1) – 144
TDs receiving (3) – 7, 21, 22

**TAYLOR, Indianapolis**
TDs rushing (4) – 1, 2 (2), 66
100-yard rushing games (2) – 147, 161

**WALKER, Seattle**
TDs rushing (9) – 1, 5, 11, 12 (2), 14, 16, 69, 74
100-yard rushing games (5) – 107, 109, 114, 133, 167

**WARREN, Pittsburgh**
TDs rushing (1) – 2

**WATT, Pittsburgh (UFA)**
TDs rushing (1) – 1
TDs receiving (1) – 1

**WHITE, Tampa Bay**
TDs rushing (1) – 1
100-yard rushing games (1) – 105
TDs receiving (2) – 3, 6

**WILLIAMS, Arizona (UFA)**
TDs rushing (1) – 1

**WILLIAMS, Detroit (New Orleans)**
TDs rushing (17) – 1 (10), 2 (3), 4, 7, 13, 51
100-yard rushing games (2) – 108, 144

**WILSON, San Francisco/Miami**
TDs rushing (5) – 1 (2), 3, 20, 32
100-yard rushing games (2) – 119, 120
TDs receiving (1) – 10

## WIDE RECEIVERS

**ADAMS, Las Vegas**
TDs receiving (14) – 1, 3, 4, 5, 25, 31 (2), 35, 45, 48 (2), 58, 60
100-yard receiving games (8) – 101, 124, 126, 141 (2), 146, 153, 177

**AGHOLOR, New England (Baltimore)**
TDs receiving (2) – 34, 44
100-yard receiving games (1) – 110

**AGNEW, Jacksonville**
TDs receiving (3) – 1, 4, 8

**AIYUK, San Francisco**
TDs receiving (8) – 2, 3, 7, 12, 13, 14, 32, 34

**ALLEN, L.A. Chargers**
TDs receiving (4) – 2, 3, 14, 35
100-yard receiving games (2) – 102, 104

**ANDERSON, Carolina/Arizona (Miami)**
TDs receiving (1) – 75
100-yard receiving games (1) – 102

**AIYUK, San Francisco**
100-yard receiving games (1) – 101

**ATWELL, L.A. Rams**
TDs rushing (1) – 11

**BATEMAN, Baltimore**
TDs receiving (2) – 55, 75
100-yard receiving games (1) – 108

**BERRIOS, N.Y. Jets (Miami)**
TDs receiving (2) – 15, 20
TDs passing (1) – 2

**BOURNE, New England**
TDs receiving (1) – 5
100-yard receiving games (1) – 100

**BOYD, Cincinnati**
TDs receiving (5) – 2, 3, 13, 56, 60
100-yard receiving games (2) – 105, 155

**BROWN, Arizona**
TDs receiving (3) – 6, 23, 25
100-yard receiving games (1) – 140

**BROWN, Buffalo (FA)**
TDs receiving (1) – 42

**BROWN, Dallas (Houston)**
TDs receiving (3) – 1, 9, 13

**BROWN, Philadelphia**
TDs receiving (11) – 6, 9, 15, 17, 27, 29 (2), 33, 39, 40, 78
100-yard receiving games (5) – 103, 119, 155, 156, 181

**BROWN, Washington**
TDs receiving (2) – 30, 75
100-yard receiving games (1) – 105

**BURKS, Tennessee**
TDs receiving (1) – 25
100-yard receiving games (1) – 111
TDs fumble recovery (1) – 0

**BYRD, Atlanta (Carolina)**
TDs receiving (2) – 47, 75

**CAGER, N.Y. Giants**
TDs receiving (1) – 9

**CALLAWAY, New Orleans (Denver)**
TDs receiving (1) – 4

**CAMPBELL, Indianapolis**
TDs receiving (3) – 4 (2), 35

**CARTER, L.A. Chargers (Las Vegas)**
TDs receiving (3) – 23, 32, 33

**CHARK, Detroit (Carolina)**
TDs receiving (3) – 1, 22, 48
100-yard receiving games (1) – 108

**CHASE, Cincinnati**
TDs receiving (9) – 5, 6, 8, 15 (2), 26, 32, 41, 60
100-yard receiving games (4) – 119, 129, 130, 132

**CLAYPOOL, Pittsburgh/Chicago**
TDs receiving (1) – 6
TDs passing (1) – 1

**COBB, Green Bay (N.Y. Jets)**
TDs receiving (1) – 11

**COLE, Las Vegas**
TDs receiving (1) – 30

**COLLINS, Houston**
TDs receiving (2) – 6, 12

**COOKS, Houston (Dallas)**
TDs receiving (3) – 6, 11, 18
100-yard receiving games (1) – 106

**COOPER, Cleveland**
TDs receiving (9) – 4, 6, 7, 11 (2), 15, 23, 25, 46
100-yard receiving games (5) – 101 (2), 105, 113, 131

**CRACRAFT, Miami**
TDs receiving (2) – 2, 11

**DAVIS, Buffalo**
TDs receiving (7) – 8, 11, 19, 26, 34, 62, 98
100-yard receiving games (1) – 171

**DAVIS, N.Y. Jets**
TDs receiving (2) – 5, 66

**DIGGS, Buffalo**
TDs receiving (11) – 4, 5 (2), 8, 14, 15, 17, 26, 46, 49, 53
100-yard receiving games (7) – 102, 104, 108, 122, 128, 148 (2)

**DORSETT, Houston (Las Vegas)**
TDs receiving (1) – 25

**DORTCH, Arizona**
TDs receiving (2) – 5 (2)
100-yard receiving games (1) – 103

**DOTSON, Washington**
TDs receiving (7) – 1, 4, 7, 10, 19, 24, 28
100-yard receiving games (1) – 105

**DOUBS, Green Bay**
TDs receiving (3) – 5, 13, 19

**DULIN, Indianapolis**
TDs receiving (1) – 14

**DUVERNAY, Baltimore**
TDs receiving (3) – 4, 17, 25
TDs rushing (1) – 15
TDs KOR (1) – 103

**EVANS, Tampa Bay**
TDs receiving (6) – 1, 5, 13, 30, 57, 63
100-yard receiving games (3) – 103, 123, 207

**GAGE, Tampa Bay**
TDs receiving (5) – 1 (2), 3, 5, 8

**GALLUP, Dallas**
TDs receiving (4) – 3, 9, 12, 13

**GODWIN, Tampa Bay**
TDs receiving (3) – 4, 5, 10
100-yard receiving games (2) – 110, 120

**GOLLADAY, N.Y. Giants (FA)**
TDs receiving (1) – 25

**GOODWIN, Seattle (Cleveland**
TDs receiving (4) – 19, 20, 23, 24

**GREEN, Arizona (retired)**
TDs receiving (2) – 6, 77

**HARDMAN, Kansas City (N.Y. Jets)**
TDs receiving (4) – 2, 3, 7, 8
TDs rushing (2) – 3, 25

**HARRY, Chicago (UFA)**
TDs receiving (1) – 17

**HIGGINS, Cincinnati**
TDs receiving (7) – 5 (2), 9, 12, 27, 41, 59
100-yard receiving games (4) – 114, 124, 128, 148

**HILL, Miami**
TDs receiving (7) – 2, 3, 20, 45, 48, 60 (2)
100-yard receiving games (7) – 103, 143, 146, 160, 177, 188, 190
TDs rushing (1) – 2
TDs fumble recovery (1) – 0

**HILLIARD, Tennessee (UFA)**
TDs receiving (4) – 7, 13, 14, 23

**HODGE, Atlanta**
TDs receiving (1) – 25

**HODGINS, N.Y. Giants**
TDs receiving (4) – 2, 6 (2), 7

**HOLLINS, Las Vegas (Atlanta)**
100-yard receiving games (1) – 158

**HOPKINS, Arizona**
TDs receiving (3) – 6, 22, 33
100-yard receiving games (2) – 103, 159

**IRWIN, Cincinnati**
TDs receiving (4) – 1, 4, 23, 45

**JAMES, N.Y. Giants (Kansas City)**
TDs receiving (4) – 1, 6, 9, 19

**JEFFERSON, L.A. Rams**
TDs receiving (3) – 3, 7, 23

**JEFFERSON, Minnesota**
TDs receiving (6) – 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 17, 22, 36
100-yard receiving games (10) – 107, 115, 123, 133, 139, 147, 154, 184, 193, 223
TDs rushing (1) – 3

**JENNINGS, San Francisco**
TDs receiving (1) – 5

**JEUDY, Denver**
TDs receiving (6) – 5, 6, 7, 18, 20, 67
100-yard receiving games (3) – 102, 117, 154

**JOHNSON, Denver**
TDs receiving (1) – 1

**JONES, Chicago**
TDs receiving (1) – 9
TDs rushing (1) – 42

**M. JONES, Jacksonville (Detroit)**
TDs receiving (3) – 10 (2), 11
100-yard receiving games (1) – 104

**Z. JONES, Jacksonville**
TDs receiving (5) – 3, 5, 14, 20, 59
100-yard receiving games (2) – 109, 145

**JONES, Tampa Bay (UFA)**
TDs receiving (2) – 8, 31

**KIRK, Jacksonville**
TDs receiving (8) – 3, 4 (2), 5, 7, 10, 19, 25
100-yard receiving games (3) – 104, 105, 117

**KUPP, L.A. Rams**
TDs receiving (6) – 3, 4, 10, 16, 69, 75
100-yard receiving games (5) – 108, 122, 125, 127, 128
TDs rushing (1) – 20

**LAMB, Dallas**
TDs receiving (9) – 1, 3, 7, 15, 20, 21, 30, 35, 36
100-yard receiving games (5) – 100, 106, 120, 126, 150

**LANDRY, New Orleans (UFA)**
TDs receiving (1) – 7
100-yard receiving games (1) – 114

**LAZARD, Green Bay (N.Y. Jets**
TDs receiving (6) – 4, 5, 6, 13, 20, 25
100-yard receiving games (1) – 116

**LOCKETT, Seattle**
TDs receiving (9) – 4, 9, 21, 33, 35 (2), 36 (2), 40
100-yard receiving games (3) – 104, 107, 128

**LONDON, Atlanta**
TDs receiving (4) – 2, 4, 7, 14
100-yard receiving games (1) – 120

**MARSHALL, Carolina**
TDs receiving (1) – 21

**McCLOUD, San Francisco**
TDs receiving (1) – 8
TDs rushing (1) – 71

**McKENZIE, Buffalo (Indianapolis)**
TDs receiving (4) – 4, 7, 8, 19
TDs rushing (1) – 2

**McLAURIN, Washington**
TDs receiving (5) – 3, 16, 19, 37, 49
100-yard receiving games (4) – 102, 105, 113, 128

**METCALF, Seattle**
TDs receiving (6) – 3, 4, 8, 12, 18, 50
100-yard receiving games (2) – 127, 149

**MEYERS, New England (Las Vegas)**
TDs receiving (6) – 2 (2), 5, 24, 30, 48
100-yard receiving games (1) – 111

**MOONEY, Chicago**
TDs receiving (2) – 16 (2)

**MOORE, Arizona**
TDs receiving (1) – 38

**MOORE, Carolina (Chicago)**
TDs receiving (7) – 5 (3), 16, 20, 24, 62
100-yard receiving games (3) – 103, 117, 152

**MOORE, Houston (UFA)**
TDs receiving (2) – 13 (2)
100-yard receiving games (1) – 124

**MOORE, N.Y. Jets (Cleveland)**
TDs receiving (1) – 22

**NAILOR, Minnesota**
TDs receiving (1) – 47

**OLAVE, New Orleans**
TDs receiving (4) – 4, 16, 25, 53
100-yard receiving games (3) – 102, 106, 147

**OSBORN, Minnesota**
TDs receiving (5) – 2, 5, 9, 15, 28
100-yard receiving games (2) – 117, 157

**PALMER, L.A. Chargers**
TDs receiving (3) – 6, 7, 50
100-yard receiving games (2) – 106 (2)

**PARKER, New England**
TDs receiving (3) – 2, 25, 26
100-yard receiving games (1) – 156

**PASCAL, Philadelphia (Arizona)**
TDs receiving (1) – 34

**PEOPLES-JONES, Cleveland**
TDs receiving (3) – 2, 3, 13
100-yard receiving games (1) – 114
TDs PR (1) – 76

**PERRIMAN, Tampa Bay (UFA)**
TDs receiving (1) – 28

**PETTIS, Chicago (UFA)**
TDs receiving (3) – 6, 40, 51

**PICKENS, Pittsburgh**
TDs receiving (4) – 7, 14, 24, 31
100-yard receiving games (1) – 102
TDs rushing (1) – 1

**PIERCE, Jacksonville**
TDs receiving (2) – 15, 32

**PITTMAN, Indianapolis**
TDs receiving (4) – 1, 6 (2), 15
100-yard receiving games (2) – 121, 134

**PRINGLE, Chicago (UFA)**
TDs receiving (2) – 4, 35

**RAYMOND, Detroit**
TDs PR (1) – 47

**REAGOR, Minnesota**
TDs receiving (1) – 1

**RENFROW, Las Vegas**
TDs receiving (2) – 11, 14

**REYNOLDS, Detroit**
TDs receiving (3) – 3 (2), 5

**ROBINSON, Baltimore (UFA)**
TDs receiving (2) – 6, 12
100-yard receiving games (1) – 128

**ROBINSON, L.A. Rams (Pittsburgh)**
TDs receiving (3) – 1, 5, 6

**ROBINSON, N.Y. Giants**
TDs receiving (1) – 5
100-yard receiving games (1) – 100

**RODGERS, Green Bay/Houston**
TDs receiving (1) – 28

**SAMUEL, San Francisco**
TDs receiving (2) – 4, 57
100-yard receiving games (1) – 115
TDs rushing (3) – 6, 13, 39

**SAMUEL, Washington**
TDs rushing (1) – 10
TDs receiving (4) – 3, 15, 20, 49

**SCHWARTZ, Cleveland**
TDs rushing (1) – 31

**SHAHEED, New Orleans**
TDs receiving (2) – 53, 68
TDs rushing (1) – 44

**SHAKIR, Buffalo**
TDs receiving (1) – 24

**SHENAULT, Carolina**
TDs receiving (1) – 67
TDs rushing (1) – 41

**SHEPARD, N.Y. Giants**
TDs receiving (1) – 65

**SHERFIELD, Miami (Buffalo)**
TDs receiving (2) – 14, 75

**SKOWRONSKI, L.A. Rams**
TDs rushing (1) – 17

**SLAYTON, N.Y. Giants**
TDs receiving (2) – 32, 54

**SMITH, Carolina**
TDs receiving (2) – 13, 19

**SMITH, New Orleans**
TDs receiving (1) – 18
100-yard receiving games (1) – 105

**SMITH, Philadelphia**
TDs receiving (7) – 2, 7, 9, 11, 14, 34, 41
100-yard receiving games (5) – 102, 113, 115, 126, 169

**SMITH-SCHUSTER, Kansas City (New England)**
TDs receiving (3) – 4, 42, 45
100-yard receiving games (2) – 113, 124

**ST. BROWN, Chicago**
TDs receiving (1) – 18

**ST. BROWN, Detroit**
TDs receiving (6) – 1, 4 (2), 10, 11, 13
100-yard receiving games (4) – 114, 116, 119, 122

**SUTTON, Denver**
TDs receiving (2) – 5, 20
100-yard receiving games (1) – 122

**THIELEN, Minnesota (Carolina)**
TDs receiving (6) – 1 (2), 2, 4, 15, 23

**THOMAS, New Orleans**
TDs receiving (3) – 3, 7, 9

**THORNTON, New England**
TDs rushing (1) – 19

**TONEY, N.Y. Giants/Kansas City**
TDs receiving (2) – 6, 8
TDs rushing (1) – 11

**TOURE, Green Bay**
TDs receiving (1) – 37

**VALDES-SCANTLING, Kansas City**
TDs receiving (2) – 4, 18
100-yard receiving games (1) – 111

**VIRGIL, Denver**
TDs receiving (1) – 66

**WADDLE, Miami**
TDs receiving (8) – 5, 6, 7, 18, 29, 42, 67, 84
100-yard receiving games (6) – 102, 106, 114, 129, 143, 171

**WATKINS, Philadelphia**
TDs receiving (3) – 22, 30, 53

**WATSON, Green Bay**
TDs receiving (7) – 7, 8, 14 (2), 39, 58, 63
100-yard receiving games (3) – 104, 107, 110
TDs rushing (2) – 15, 46

**WATSON, Kansas City**
TDs receiving (2) – 4, 41

**WESTBROOK-IKHINE, Tennessee**
TDs receiving (3) – 2, 9, 63
100-yard receiving games (1) – 119

**WILLIAMS, Detroit**
TDs receiving (1) – 41

**WILLIAMS, L.A. Chargers**
TDs receiving (4) – 10, 13, 15 (2)
100-yard receiving games (4) – 113, 116, 120, 134

**WILSON, N.Y. Jets**
TDs receiving (4) – 2, 8, 15, 54
100-yard receiving games (3) – 102, 115, 162

**WOODS, Tennessee (Houston)**
TDs receiving (2) – 7 (2)

**ZACCHEAUS, Atlanta (UFA)**
TDs receiving (3) – 3, 11, 19

## TIGHT ENDS

**AKINS, Houston (Cleveland)**
TDs receiving (5) – 4, 12, 19, 25, 28

**ALIE-COX, Indianapolis**
TDs receiving (3) – 4, 7, 14

**ANDREWS, Baltimore**
TDs receiving (5) – 1, 5, 11, 12, 16
100-yard receiving games (3) – 100, 104, 106

**BATES, Tampa Bay**
TDs receiving (1) – 16

**BELL, Kansas City**
TDs receiving (1) – 17

**BELLINGER, N.Y. Giants**
TDs receiving (2) – 8, 16
TDs rushing (1) – 2

**BRYANT, Cleveland**
TDs receiving (1) – 1

**CONKLIN, N.Y. Jets**
TDs receiving (3) – 3, 8, 9

**DISSLY, Seattle**
TDs receiving (3) – 17, 18, 38

**DWELLEY, San Francisco**
TDs receiving (1) – 38

**ENGRAM, Jacksonville (FFA)**
TDs receiving (4) – 3, 12, 21, 22
100-yard receiving games (2) – 113, 162

**ERTZ, Arizona**
TDs receiving (4) – 2, 6 (2), 8

**EVERETT, L.A. Chargers**
TDs receiving (4) – 3, 6, 18 (2)

**FANT, Seattle**
TDs receiving (4) – 2, 4, 6, 10

**FERGUSON, Dallas**
TDs receiving (2) – 1, 7

**FORTSON, Kansas City**
TDs receiving (2) – 1, 10

**FREIERMUTH, Pittsburgh**
TDs receiving (2) – 8, 10

**GESICKI, Miami (New England)**
TDs receiving (5) – 3, 4 (2), 11, 14

**GOEDERT, Philadelphia**
TDs receiving (3) – 4, 6, 23
100-yard receiving games (1) – 100

**GRAY, Kansas City**
TDs rushing (1) – 1
TDs receiving (1) – 13

**HENDERSHOT, Dallas**
TDs receiving (2) – 2, 20
TDs rushing (1) – 2

**HENRY, New England**
TDs receiving (2) – 31, 37

**HIGBEE, L.A. Rams**
TDs receiving (3) – 7, 8, 9

**HILL, New Orleans**
TDs receiving (2) – 3, 30
TDs rushing (7) – 1, 2, 8 (2), 9, 11, 60
100-yard rushing games (1) – 112
TDs passing (2) – 22, 68

**HOCKENSON, Detroit/Minnesota**
TDs receiving (6) – 1, 4, 5, 12, 15, 32
100-yard receiving games (2) – 109, 179

**HOOPER, Tennessee (Las Vegas)**
TDs receiving (2) – 3, 16

**HOWARD, Houston (Las Vegas)**
TDs receiving (2) – 16, 22

**HURST, Cincinnati (Carolina)**
TDs receiving (2) – 2, 19

**JOHNSON, New Orleans**
TDs receiving (7) – 1, 8, 15, 17, 19, 22, 41

**KELCE, Kansas City**
TDs receiving (12) – 1 (2), 3, 4 (2), 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 32, 39
100-yard receiving games (6) – 105, 106, 108, 113, 115, 121

**KIEFT, Tampa Bay**
TDs receiving (1) – 5

**KITTLE, San Francisco**
TDs receiving (11) – 1, 2, 4, 7, 15, 28, 32, 33, 34, 39, 54
100-yard receiving games (1) – 120

**KMET, Chicago**
TDs receiving (7) – 4, 6, 10, 11, 13, 18, 50

**KNOX, Buffalo**
TDs receiving (6) – 1, 4, 5, 13, 14, 24

**LEWIS, Green Bay**
TDs receiving (2) – 1, 2

**LIKELY, Baltimore**
TDs receiving (3) – 1, 2, 3
100-yard receiving games (1) – 103

**MABRY, Seattle**
TDs receiving (1) – 7

**McBRIDE, Arizona**
TDs receiving (1) – 4

**MILNE, Tampa Bay**
TDs receiving (1) – 6

**MOREAU, Las Vegas (UFA)**
TDs receiving (2) – 4, 5

**MORRIS, Buffalo**
TDs receiving (1) – 14

**MUNDT, Minnesota**
TDs receiving (1) – 1

**MYARICK, N.Y. Giants**
TDs receiving (1) – 1

**NJOKU, Cleveland**
TDs receiving (4) – 7, 10, 12, 13

**OKONKWO, Tennessee**
TDs receiving (3) – 8, 10, 21

**OKWUEGBUNAM, Denver**
TDs receiving (1) – 25

**OLIVER, Buffalo (Minnesota)**
TDs receiving (2) – 1, 12

**OTTON, Tampa Bay**
TDs receiving (2) – 1 (2)

**PARHAM, L.A. Chargers**
TDs receiving (1) – 3

**PARKINSON, Seattle**
TDs receiving (2) – 12, 25

**PITTS, Atlanta**
TDs receiving (2) – 2, 7

**PRUITT, Atlanta**
TDs receiving (4) – 2 (2), 4, 7

**QUITORIANO, Houston**
TDs receiving (2) – 2, 8

**RUDOLPH, Tampa Bay (UFA)**
TDs receiving (1) – 8

**SAUBERT, Denver (Miami)**
TDs receiving (1) – 22

**SCHULTZ, Dallas**
TDs receiving (5) – 5, 6 (2), 10, 15

**SMITH, Minnesota (Cincinnati)**
TDs receiving (1) – 18

**SMYTHE, Miami**
TDs receiving (1) – 4
TDs rushing (1) – 1

**SWAIM, Tennessee (UFA)**
TDs receiving (1) – 2

**THOMAS, Washington**
TDs receiving (1) – 20

**TOMLINSON, Denver (Houston)**
TDs receiving (2) – 3 (2)

**TONYAN, Green Bay (Chicago)**
TDs receiving (2) – 20, 21

**TRAUTMAN, New Orleans (Denver)**
TDs receiving (1) – 22

**TREMBLE, Carolina**
TDs receiving (3) – 8, 17, 29

**UZOMAH, N.Y. Jets**
TDs receiving (2) – 1, 40

**WALLER, Las Vegas (N.Y. Giants)**
TDs receiving (3) – 3, 24, 25

**WILCOX, Cincinnati (FA)**
TDs receiving (1) – 12

**WOODS, Indianapolis**
TDs receiving (3) – 1, 10, 12

**WRIGHT, Detroit**
TDs receiving (4) – 1, 2 (2), 4

**S. ZYLSTRA, Detroit**
TDs receiving (4) – 1 (2), 3, 7

## QUARTERBACKS

**ALLEN, Buffalo**
TDs passing (35) – 1, 2, 4 (4), 5 (3), 7, 8 (3), 10, 11 (2), 13, 14 (3), 15, 17, 19 (2), 24 (2), 26 (2), 34, 42, 46, 49, 53, 62, 98
300-yard passing games (6) – 304, 317, 329, 330, 400, 424
TDs rushing (7) – 1, 3, 4 (2), 5, 11, 36

**K. ALLEN, Houston (Buffalo)**
TDs passing (2) – 6, 25

**BLOUGH, Arizona**
TDs passing (2) – 4, 77

**BRADY, Tampa Bay (UFA/retired)**
TDs passing (25) – 1 (6), 3, 4, 5 (5), 6, 8 (3), 10, 11, 13, 28, 30, 31, 57, 63
300-yard passing games (5) – 312, 325, 351, 385, 432
TDs rushing (1) – 1

**BRIDGEWATER, Miami (UFA)**
TDs passing (4) – 2, 3, 4, 7
300-yard passing games (1) – 329

**BRISSETT, Cleveland (Washington)**
TDs passing (12) – 1 (2), 2, 4, 6, 7 (2), 11 (2), 12, 15, 25
300-yard passing games (1) – 324
TDs rushing (2) – 3, 4

**BURROW, Cincinnati**
TDs passing (35) – 1 (2 (2), 3, 4, 5 (3), 6 (2), 8 (2), 9 (2), 11, 12 (4), 13, 15 (2), 19, 23, 26, 27, 29, 32, 41 (2), 45, 56, 59, 60 (2)
300-yard passing games (5) – 300, 338, 355, 375, 481
TDs rushing (5) – 1 (3), 4, 19

**CARR, Las Vegas (New Orleans)**
TDs passing (24) – 1, 3 (2), 4, 5 (3), 9, 14, 18 (2), 25 (2), 26, 30, 31 (2), 35, 36, 38, 45, 48 (2), 58
300-yard passing games (2) – 303, 307

**COUSINS, Minnesota**
TDs passing (29) – 1 (6), 2 (3), 4, 5 (2), 6, 8, 9, 10, 12 (2), 15 (4), 17, 22, 23, 28, 36, 47, 64
300-yard passing games (3) – 357, 425, 460
TDs rushing (1) – 1

**DALTON, New Orleans (Carolina)**
TDs passing (18) – 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 15, 16 (2), 17, 18, 19, 22, 25, 30, 36, 41, 53 (2)
300-yard passing games (1) – 361

**DANIEL, L.A. Chargers (UFA)**
TDs receiving (1) – 3

**DARNOLD, Carolina (San Francisco)**
TDs passing (7) – 5 (3), 13, 17, 19, 24
300-yard passing games (1) – 341
TDs rushing (2) – 2, 3

**DOBBS, Tennessee (Cleveland)**
TDs passing (2) – 7, 21

**DRISKEL, Houston (Arizona)**
TDs passing (1) – 28

**EHLINGER, Indianapolis**
TDs passing (3) – 1, 4, 6

**FIELDS, Chicago**
TDs passing (17) – 4, 6 (2), 9, 10 (2), 13, 16 (2), 17, 18 (2), 25, 35, 40, 50, 51
TDs rushing (8) – 1, 3 (3), 4, 55, 61, 67
100-yard rushing games (3) – 132, 147, 178

**FLACCO, N.Y. Jets (UFA)**
TDs passing (5) – 2, 3, 10, 15, 66
300-yard passing games (2) – 307, 309

**GABBERT, Tampa Bay (Kansas City)**
TDs passing (1) – 3

**GAROPPOLO, San Francisco (Las Vegas)**
TDs passing (16) – 3, 4, 5, 7 (2), 8, 9 (2), 12, 13, 14, 15, 32, 38, 39, 57
300-yard passing games (1) – 303
TDs rushing (2) – 1 (2)

**GOFF, Detroit**
TDs passing (29) – 1 (4), 2 (3), 3 (4), 4 (3), 5 (2), 7 (2), 9, 10, 11, 13, 21, 22 (2), 32, 41, 48, 51
300-yard passing games (5) – 321, 330, 340, 355, 378

**HEINICKE, Washington (Atlanta)**
TDs passing (12) – 3, 4, 6, 9 (2), 14, 16, 19 (2), 28, 37, 49
TDs rushing (1) – 1

**HERBERT, L.A. Chargers**
TDs passing (25) – 1 (5), 2, 3 (2), 6 (2), 7, 10, 12, 13, 14 (2), 15 (2), 18 (2), 23, 32, 33, 35, 50
300-yard passing games (5) – 313, 334, 335, 340, 367

**HOWELL, Washington**
TDs passing (1) – 16
TDs rushing (1) – 9

**HUNTLEY, Baltimore**
TDs passing (2) – 6, 7
TDs rushing (1) – 2

**HURTS, Philadelphia**
TDs passing (22) – 2, 4, 6 (2), 7, 9, 11, 15, 17, 22, 23, 27, 29 (2), 30, 33, 34 (2), 39, 40, 41, 53
300-yard passing games (4) – 315, 333, 340, 380
TDs rushing (13) – 1 (6), 2, 3 (2), 7, 10, 22, 26
100-yard rushing games (1) – 157

**JACKSON, Baltimore**
TDs passing (17) – 1 (3), 4, 5 (2), 10, 11, 12 (3), 16, 17, 24, 25, 55, 75
300-yard passing games (1) – 318
TDs rushing (3) – 1, 9, 79
100-yard rushing games (2) – 107, 119

**JONES, New England**
TDs passing (14) – 2 (3), 3, 5 (2), 6, 7, 26, 34, 37, 44, 48 (2)
300-yard passing games (2) – 321, 382
TDs rushing (1) – 3

**JONES, N.Y. Giants**
TDs passing (15) – 1 (2), 2, 5, 6 (3), 7, 8, 9 (2), 16, 32, 54, 65
300-yard passing games (2) – 334, 341
TDs rushing (7) – 1 (2), 3, 8, 10, 18, 21
100-yard rushing games (1) – 107

**LAWRENCE, Jacksonville**
TDs passing (25) – 1, 3 (4), 4 (3), 5 (2), 7, 8, 10 (3), 11, 12, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 28, 59
300-yard passing games (4) – 310, 318, 321, 368
TDs rushing (5) – 1 (4), 2

**LOVE, Green Bay**
TDs passing (1) – 63

**MAHOMES, Kansas City**
TDs passing (41) – 1 (3), 2 (4), 3 (4), 4 (6), 6 (2), 7 (2), 8 (3), 9 (3), 10 (2), 13, 16, 17 (2), 18, 20, 32, 39, 41, 42, 45, 56
300-yard passing games (10) – 320, 328, 329, 331, 336, 338, 352, 360, 423, 446
TDs rushing (4) – 3 (2), 5, 14

**MARIOTA, Atlanta (Philadelphia)**
TDs passing (15) – 2 (3), 4 (2), 7 (3), 11, 14, 19, 25 (2), 47, 75
TDs rushing (4) – 1, 2, 3, 10

**McCOY, Arizona**
TDs passing (1) – 6

**MILLS, Houston**
TDs passing (17) – 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 (2), 11, 12 (2), 13 (2), 16, 18, 19, 22, 25, 28
300-yard passing games (2) – 302, 319
TDs rushing (2) – 4, 17

**MINSHEW, Philadelphia (Indianapolis)**
TDs passing (3) – 9, 14, 78
300-yard passing games (1) – 355
TDs rushing (1) – 1

**MULLENS, Minnesota**
TDs passing (1) – 9

**MURRAY, Arizona**
TDs passing (14) – 2, 5 (2), 6 (5), 8, 22, 23, 25, 33, 38
300-yard passing games (2) – 314, 326
TDs rushing (3) – 3, 4, 5
100-yard rushing games (1) – 100

**PERKINS, L.A. Rams (FA)**
TDs passing (1) – 7

**PETERMAN, Chicago**
TDs passing (1) – 11

**PICKETT, Pittsburgh**
TDs passing (7) – 6, 7, 10, 14, 17, 24, 31
300-yard passing games (1) – 327
TDs rushing (3) – 1 (2), 2

**PRESCOTT, Dallas**
TDs passing (23) – 1 (2), 2, 3 (2), 5, 6 (2), 7, 10 (2), 12, 13 (2), 15 (2), 20 (2), 21, 30, 35, 36, 68
300-yard passing games (1) – 347
TDs rushing (1) – 7

**PURDY, San Francisco**
TDs passing (13) – 1, 2 (2), 3 (2), 4, 21, 27, 28, 32, 33, 34, 54
TDs rushing (1) – 2

**RODGERS, Green Bay (N.Y. Jets)**
TDs passing (26) – 1, 2, 4 (2), 5 (2), 6, 7 (2), 8 (2), 11, 13 (2), 14 (2), 19, 20 (2), 21 (2), 23, 25, 37, 39, 58
TDs rushing (1) – 2

**RUSH, Dallas**
TDs passing (5) – 1, 7, 9 (2), 30

**RYAN, Indianapolis (FA)**
TDs passing (14) – 1 (2), 4 (2), 6, 7, 10, 12, 14 (2), 15 (2), 32, 35
300-yard passing games (3) – 352, 356, 389
TDs rushing (1) – 1

**RYPIEN, Denver (L.A. Rams)**
TDs passing (2) – 3, 7

**SIEMIAN, Chicago (Cincinnati)**
TDs receiving (1) – 4

**SMITH, Seattle**
TDs passing (30) – 2, 3, 4 (3), 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 (2), 17, 18 (3), 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 33, 35 (2), 36 (2), 38, 40, 50
300-yard passing games (4) – 320, 325, 328, 367
TDs rushing (1) – 8

**STAFFORD, L.A. Rams**
TDs passing (10) – 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 16, 62, 69, 75
300-yard passing games (1) – 308

**STIDHAM, Las Vegas (Denver)**
TDs passing (4) – 4, 11, 24, 60
300-yard passing games (1) – 365

**TAGOVAILOA, Miami**
TDs passing (25) – 2 (2), 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 (2), 11, 13, 14 (2), 18, 20, 29, 42, 45, 48, 60 (2), 67, 75, 84
300-yard passing games (4) – 302, 310, 382, 469

**TANNEHILL, Tennessee**
TDs passing (13) – 2 (2), 7 (2), 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 23, 25, 63
300-yard passing games (1) – 333
TDs rushing (2) – 1 (2)

**TAYLOR, N.Y. Giants**
TDs passing (1) – 19

**THOMPSON, Miami**
TDs passing (1) – 4

**TRUBISKY, Pittsburgh**
TDs passing (4) – 1, 6, 8, 10
TDs rushing (2) – 1 (2)

**WALKER, Carolina (Chicago)**
TDs passing (3) – 20, 29, 62
300-yard passing games (1) – 317

**WATSON, Cleveland**
TDs passing (7) – 2, 3, 10, 13 (2), 33, 46
TDs rushing (1) – 12

**WEBB, N.Y. Giants (retired)**
TDs passing (1) – 25
TDs rushing (1) – 14

**WENTZ, Washington (FA)**
TDs passing (11) – 1, 3, 7, 10, 15, 20 (2), 24, 30, 49, 75
300-yard passing games (3) – 313, 337, 359
TDs rushing (1) – 1

**WHITE, N.Y. Jets (Miami)**
TDs passing (3) – 8, 22, 54
300-yard passing games (2) – 315, 369
TDs rushing (1) – 1

**WILLIS, Tennessee**
TDs rushing (1) – 14

**WILSON, Denver**
TDs passing (16) – 1, 3, 5 (2), 6, 11, 18, 20 (2), 22, 24, 25, 39, 66 (2), 67
300-yard passing games (1) – 340
TDs rushing (3) – 3, 4, 16

**WILSON, N.Y. Jets**
TDs passing (6) – 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 40
300-yard passing games (2) – 317, 355
TDs rushing (1) – 5
TDs receiving (1) – 2

**WINSTON, New Orleans**
TDs passing (4) – 3, 4, 7, 9
300-yard passing games (1) – 353

**WOLFORD, L.A. Rams (FA)**
TDs passing (1) – 3

**ZAPPE, New England**
TDs passing (5) – 2, 24, 25, 30, 31
300-yard passing games (1) – 309

## KICKERS

**AMMENDOLA, Kansas City/ Arizona (FA)**
PATs (5)
FGs (5) – 19, 20, 23, 26, 31

**BADGLEY, Chicago/Detroit**
PATs (33)
FGs (24) – 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 31, 33, 34 (2), 35, 37, 38, 40 (2), 41 (2), 42, 44, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53

**BASS, Buffalo**
PATs (48)
FGs (27) – 21, 25, 28, 29, 30, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 (3), 39 (3), 41, 42 (2), 45 (2), 47, 48, 49 (3), 51, 56

**BERTOLET, L.A. Chargers**
PATs (6)
FGs (3) – 25, 27, 28

**BLANKENSHIP, Indianapolis/ Arizona (FA)**
PATs (4)
FGs (4) – 27, 28, 45, 50

**BOSWELL, Pittsburgh**
PATs (18)
FGs (20) – 20, 21, 25, 29, 33, 34 (2), 36, 40, 44, 45, 48, 49, 50, 51 (2), 52, 53, 55, 59

**BULLOCK, Tennessee (FA)**
PATs (28)
FGs (17) – 23, 27, 28, 29 (2), 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 44 (2), 46, 48 (2), 51

**BUTKER, Kansas City**
PATs (38)
FGs (18) – 22 (2), 23, 26, 27 (2), 28, 30, 32, 33, 35, 44 (2), 45, 47, 52, 54, 62

**CARLSON, Las Vegas**
PATs (35)
FGs (34) – 20, 21, 22, 23, 25 (4), 26, 30, 31, 32 (2), 35, 36 (2), 38 (3), 39, 40, 47, 49, 50 (2), 52 (2), 53, 54, 55 (3), 57 (2)

**CROSBY, Green Bay (UFA)**
PATs (37)
FGs (25) – 22, 24, 25, 26 (2), 28 (3), 29 (2), 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 38 (2), 39, 40, 46 (2), 48 (2), 49, 56

**DICKER, Philadelphia/L.A. Chargers**
PATSs (24)
FGs (21) – 21 (2), 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 31 (2), 33, 34, 36, 37 (2), 40 (2), 42, 43, 46, 47, 48

**EBERLE, Detroit (FA)**
PATs (2)
FGs (1) – 49

**ELLIOTT, Philadelphia**
PATs (51)
FGs (20) – 22 (2), 23, 25, 28, 29, 31, 32 (3), 34, 38, 39 (2), 47, 51, 52, 54 (2), 56

**FAIRBAIRN, Houston**
PATs (24)
FGs (29) – 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29 (2), 30, 34, 35 (2), 37, 38, 39, 40 (2), 43 (3), 44 (2), 45, 46, 50 (2), 51, 54, 55, 56

**FOLK, New England**
PATs (32) – 19, 23 (2), 24 (3), 25, 28 (2), 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 (3), 39, 42, 43 (2), 44, 45, 46, 47, 49 (3), 50, 51, 52, 54

**GANO, N.Y. Giants**
PATs (32)
FGs (29) – 24, 27, 31, 33 (3), 34 (2), 36 (2), 37, 42, 43, 44 (3), 45, 47, 48 (2), 49, 50 (2), 51 (2), 52, 55, 56, 57

**GAY, L.A. Rams (Indianapolis)**
PATs (31)
FGs (28) – 20, 21, 22 (2), 23, 26 (2), 29 (2), 30, 32, 33 (2), 35, 36, 38, 39, 40 (2), 45, 47, 53, 54, 55 (3), 57, 58

**GOULD, San Francisco (UFA)**
PATs (50)
FGs (27) – 20 (3), 23 (2), 24 (2), 25 (2), 26 (2), 27, 29, 30, 33, 35, 36, 39, 43 (2), 46, 47, 48, 49 (2), 50, 51

**HOPKINS, L.A. Chargers**
PATs (12)
FGs (9) – 23, 25, 31 (2), 35, 37 (2), 39, 43

**JOSEPH, Minnesota**
PATs (40)
FGs (26) – 21, 24, 25 (2), 27, 28 (4), 29, 30, 33, 34, 36 (2), 40 (2), 41 (3), 46, 47, 50, 51, 56, 60

**KOO, Atlanta**
PATs (33)
FGs (32) – 21 (2), 24, 26, 27 (2), 28 (2), 29, 30 (2), 32, 33, 34 (2), 37, 40 (2), 41 (2), 43, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50 (2), 51 (2), 53, 54 (2)

**LAMBO, Tennessee (FA)**
PATs (3)
FGs (0)

**LUTZ, New Orleans**
PATs (33)
FGs (23) – 20, 21, 23, 25 (2), 29, 30, 31 (2), 33, 35, 37 (3), 38, 44, 45, 46, 49, 51, 54, 56, 60

**MAHER, Dallas (UFA)**
PATs (50)
FGs (29) – 21, 22, 24, 26 (2), 27, 28 (2), 29, 30, 33 (2), 36 (2), 40, 44 (2), 45 (2), 48, 50 (2), 51, 53 (4), 54, 60

**McLAUGHLIN, Indianapolis (Tampa Bay)**
PATs (21)
FGs (30) – 20, 23, 26, 27 (2), 28 (2), 31 (2), 34, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43, 46 (2), 48 (3), 49, 50, 51 (3), 52 (3), 54

**McMANUS, Denver**
**PATS (25)**
FGs (28) – 20, 24, 26, 27 (2), 28, 30, 33 (2), 39, 40, 41, 44 (2), 45, 48 (3), 49 (2), 50 (2), 51, 52 (3), 54, 55

**McPHERSON, Cincinnati**
PATs (40)
FGs (24) – 19, 21, 22, 26 (2), 28, 30, 34, 36, 38, 40, 41 (2), 43 (2), 44, 45, 46, 47, 50, 52, 54, 57, 59

**MYERS, Seattle**
PATs (41)
FGs (34) – 22 (2), 24, 25 (3), 26, 27 (2), 31 (4), 32 (3), 34 (3), 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 46, 49 (2), 50, 51 (2), 55, 56 (2)

**PATTERSON, Jacksonville**
PATs (35)
FGs (30) – 22 (2), 23 (2), 26 (2), 27, 29, 31, 32, 33 (3), 35, 36, 37 (3), 41, 42, 43 (2), 44, 45 (3), 48 (2), 52, 53

**PINEIRO, Carolina**
PATs (30)
FGs (33) – 26, 29, 31, 32 (4), 34 (3), 36 (2), 37 (4), 38, 39, 40 (2), 42 (4), 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49 (2), 52, 54

**PRATER, Arizona**
PATs (17)
FGs (22) – 23, 31, 32, 33 (2), 34, 36 (2), 38, 39 (2), 40, 43 (2), 44, 45, 49, 50, 53, 55, 56, 57

**SANDERS, Miami**
PATs (41)
FGs (26) – 20, 21, 23 (2), 24, 33, 34, 35, 37 (2), 39 (2), 42, 43 (2), 44, 45 (2), 46 (2), 47 (2), 48, 49, 50, 55

**SANTOS, Chicago**
PATs (27)
FGs (21) – 22, 23 (2), 28, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 47, 50 (3), 51

**SCIBA, Pittsburgh (FA)**
PATs (1)
FGs (2) – 29, 38

**SEIBERT, Detroit (FA)**
PATs (12)
FGs (3) – 35, 40, 48

**SHUDAK, Tennessee**
PATs (1)
FGs (3) – 24, 33, 38

**SLYE, Washington**
PATs (24)
FGs (25) – 19, 21, 22 (2), 24, 25, 28 (2), 29, 30, 31, 32, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44 (3), 45 (2), 50, 51, 55, 58

**SUCCOP, Tampa Bay (FA)**
PATs (24)
FGs (31) – 20, 21 (3), 22, 24, 26, 27 (2), 29, 30 (2), 31, 35, 38 (3), 40, 41, 42 (2), 44 (2), 45 (3), 47 (3), 50, 54

**TUCKER, Baltimore**
PATs (31)
FGs (37) – 21 (2), 22, 23, 24 (2), 25, 26 (2), 27 (3), 29, 30 (3), 32 (3), 34 (2), 35, 37 (2), 41, 42 (2), 43, 51 (4), 53, 55 (2), 56, 58

**VIZCAINO, New England/Arizona (Dallas)**
PATs (3)
FGs (2) – 36, 46

**WRIGHT, Kansas City/ Pittsburgh (FA)**
PATs (15)
FGs (15) – 25, 30, 32, 33 (3), 34, 42, 44, 45, 46 (2), 48, 52, 59

**YORK, Cleveland**
PATs (35)
FGs (24) – 22, 23, 26 (2), 29, 30, 32, 34 (2), 36, 37 (3), 39, 41, 42, 43, 45, 47, 48, 51 (2), 55, 58

**ZUERLEIN, N.Y. Jets**
PATs (28)
FGs (30) – 23, 26 (2), 28 (2), 30, 32 (2), 33, 34 (2), 35, 36, 37, 38, 40 (2), 43, 44 (2), 45 (3), 48, 50, 52, 53, 57 (2), 60

## Defense/Special Teams Touchdowns

New England 8; Arizona 5; Atlanta, Carolina, Cleveland, Jacksonville, Miami 4; Buffalo, Dallas, Green Bay, Indianapolis, Las Vegas, San Francisco, Washington 3; Detroit, Houston Kansas City, Minnesota, N.Y. Giants, Philadelphia, Seattle, Tennessee 2; Baltimore, Cincinnati, L.A. Chargers, L.A. Rams, New Orleans, N.Y. Jets, Pittsburgh, Tampa Bay 1; Chicago, Denver 0

# NFL SCHEDULES 2023

## PRESEASON

ALL TIMES HOME TEAM

**THURSDAY, AUG. 3**
**HALL OF FANE GAME:**
**CANTON, OHIO**
Cleveland vs. N.Y. Jets (NBC) 8:00 ET

### WEEK 1

***THURSDAY, AUGUST 10***

| | |
|---|---|
| Houston at New England | TBD |

***FRIDAY, AUGUST 11***

| | |
|---|---|
| Philadelphia at Baltimore | 7:00 |
| Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay | TBD |

***SATURDAY, AUGUST 12***

| | |
|---|---|
| Indianapolis at Buffalo | 1:00 |
| L.A. Chargers at L.A. Rams | 6:00 |
| **Dates/Times** | **TBD** |

***AUGUST 10-14***

Denver at Arizona
N.Y. Jets at Carolina
Tennessee at Chicago
Green Bay at Cincinnati
Washington at Cleveland
Jacksonville at Dallas
N.Y. Giants at Detroit
San Francisco at Las Vegas
Atlanta at Miami
Kansas City at New Orleans
Minnesota at Seattle

### WEEK 2

***THURSDAY, AUGUST 17***

| | |
|---|---|
| Cleveland at Philadelphia | 7:30 |

***SATURDAY, AUGUST 19***

| | |
|---|---|
| Miami at Houston | 7:00 |
| Chicago at Indianapolis | 7:00 |
| Las Vegas at L.A. Rams | 6:00 |
| Buffalo at Pittsburgh | 6:30 |

***SUNDAY, AUGUST 20***

| | |
|---|---|
| New Orleans at L.A. Chargers | 4:05 |

***MONDAY, AUGUST 21***

| | |
|---|---|
| Baltimore at Washington (ESPN) | 8:15 |
| **Dates/Times** | **TBD** |

***AUGUST 17-21***

Kansas City at Arizona
Cincinnati at Atlanta
Jacksonville at Detroit
New England at Green Bay
Tennessee at Minnesota
Carolina at N.Y. Giants
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Jets
Denver at San Francisco
Dallas at Seattle

### WEEK 3

***THURSDAY, AUGUST 24***

| | |
|---|---|
| Indianapolis at Philadelphia (PV) | 8:00 |

***FRIDAY, AUGUST 25***

| | |
|---|---|
| Detroit at Carolina (CBS) | 8:00 |

***SATURDAY, AUGUST 26***

| | |
|---|---|
| L.A. Rams at Denver | 7:00 |
| Baltimore at Tampa Bay | TBD |

***SUNDAY, AUGUST 27***

| | |
|---|---|
| Houston at New Orleans (FOX) | 7:00 |
| **Dates/Times** | **TBD** |

***AUGUST 24-27***

Pittsburgh at Atlanta
Buffalo at Chicago
Las Vegas at Dallas
Seattle at Green Bay
Miami at Jacksonville
Cleveland at Kansas City
Arizona at Minnesota
N.Y. Jets at N.Y. Giants
L.A. Chargers at San Francisco
New England at Tennessee
Cincinnati at Washington

## REGULAR SEASON

### WEEK 1

***THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7***

| | |
|---|---|
| Detroit at Kansas City (Thu) | 7:20p (CT) |

***SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10***

| | |
|---|---|
| Carolina at Atlanta | 1:00p (ET) |
| Houston at Baltimore | 1:00p (ET) |
| Cincinnati at Cleveland | 1:00p (ET) |
| Jacksonville at Indianapolis | 1:00p (ET) |
| Tampa Bay at Minnesota | 12:00p (CT) |
| Tennessee at New Orleans | 12:00p (CT) |
| San Francisco at Pittsburgh | 1:00p (ET) |
| Arizona at Washington | 1:00p (ET) |
| Green Bay at Chicago | 3:25p (CT) |
| Las Vegas at Denver | 2:25p (MT) |
| Miami at L.A. Chargers | 1:25p (PT) |
| Philadelphia at New England | 4:25p (ET) |
| L.A. Rams at Seattle | 1:25p (PT) |
| Dallas at N.Y. Giants | 8:20p (ET) |

***MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11***

| | |
|---|---|
| Buffalo at N.Y. Jets (Mon) | 8:15p (ET) |

### WEEK 2

***THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14***

| | |
|---|---|
| Minnesota at Philadelphia (Thu) | 8:15p (ET) |

***SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17***

| | |
|---|---|
| Green Bay at Atlanta | 1:00p (ET) |
| Las Vegas at Buffalo | 1:00p (ET) |
| Baltimore at Cincinnati | 1:00p (ET) |
| Seattle at Detroit | 1:00p (ET) |
| Indianapolis at Houston | 12:00p (CT) |
| Kansas City at Jacksonville | 1:00p (ET) |
| Chicago at Tampa Bay | 1:00p (ET) |
| L.A. Chargers at Tennessee | 12:00p (CT) |
| N.Y. Giants at Arizona | 1:05p (MST) |
| San Francisco at L.A. Rams | 1:05p (PT) |
| N.Y. Jets at Dallas | 3:25p (CT) |
| Washington at Denver | 2:25p (MT) |
| Miami at New England | 8:20p (ET) |

***MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18***

| | |
|---|---|
| New Orleans at Carolina (Mon) | 7:15p (ET) |
| Cleveland at Pittsburgh (Mon) | 8:15p (ET) |

### WEEK 3

***THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21***

| | |
|---|---|
| N.Y. Giants at San Francisco (Thu) | 5:15p (PT) |

***SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24***

| | |
|---|---|
| Indianapolis at Baltimore | 1:00p (ET) |
| Tennessee at Cleveland | 1:00p (ET) |
| Atlanta at Detroit | 1:00p (ET) |
| New Orleans at Green Bay | 12:00p (CT) |
| Houston at Jacksonville | 1:00p (ET) |
| Denver at Miami | 1:00p (ET) |
| L.A. Chargers at Minnesota | 12:00p (CT) |
| New England at N.Y. Jets | 1:00p (ET) |
| Buffalo at Washington | 1:00p (ET) |
| Carolina at Seattle | 1:05p (PT) |
| Dallas at Arizona | 1:25p (MST) |
| Chicago at Kansas City | 3:25p (CT) |
| Pittsburgh at Las Vegas | 5:20p (PT) |

***MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25***

| | |
|---|---|
| Philadelphia at Tampa Bay (Mon) | 7:15p (ET) |
| L.A. Rams at Cincinnati (Mon) | 8:15p (ET) |

### WEEK 4

***THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28***

| | |
|---|---|
| Detroit at Green Bay (Thu) | 7:15p (CT) |

***SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1***

| | |
|---|---|
| Atlanta vs Jacksonville (Wembley) | 2:30p (ET) |
| Miami at Buffalo | 1:00p (ET) |
| Minnesota at Carolina | 1:00p (ET) |
| Denver at Chicago | 12:00p (CT) |
| Baltimore at Cleveland | 1:00p (ET) |
| Pittsburgh at Houston | 12:00p (CT) |
| L.A. Rams at Indianapolis | 1:00p (ET) |
| Tampa Bay at New Orleans | 12:00p (CT) |
| Washington at Philadelphia | 1:00p (ET) |
| Cincinnati at Tennessee | 12:00p (CT) |
| Las Vegas at L.A. Chargers | 1:05p (PT) |
| New England at Dallas | 3:25p (CT) |
| Arizona at San Francisco | 1:25p (PT) |
| Kansas City at N.Y. Jets | 8:20p (ET) |

***MONDAY, OCTOBER 2***

| | |
|---|---|
| Seattle at N.Y. Giants (Mon) | 8:15p (ET) |

### WEEK 5

***THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5***

| | |
|---|---|
| Chicago at Washington (Thu) | 8:15p (ET) |

***SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8***

| | |
|---|---|
| Jacksonville vs Buffalo (Tottenham) | 2:30p (ET) |
| Houston at Atlanta | 1:00p (ET) |
| Carolina at Detroit | 1:00p (ET) |
| Tennessee at Indianapolis | 1:00p (ET) |
| N.Y. Giants at Miami | 1:00p (ET) |
| New Orleans at New England | 1:00p (ET) |
| Baltimore at Pittsburgh | 1:00p (ET) |
| Cincinnati at Arizona | 1:05p (MST) |
| Philadelphia at L.A. Rams | 1:05p (PT) |
| N.Y. Jets at Denver | 2:25p (MT) |
| Kansas City at Minnesota | 3:25p (CT) |
| Dallas at San Francisco | 5:20p (PT) |

***MONDAY, OCTOBER 9***

| | |
|---|---|
| Green Bay at Las Vegas (Mon) | 5:15p (PT) |

### WEEK 6

***THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12***

| | |
|---|---|
| Denver at Kansas City (Thu) | 7:15p (CT) |

***SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15***

| | |
|---|---|
| Baltimore vs Tennessee (Tottenham) | 2:30p (ET) |
| Washington at Atlanta | 1:00p (ET) |
| Minnesota at Chicago | 12:00p (CT) |
| Seattle at Cincinnati | 1:00p (ET) |
| San Francisco at Cleveland | 1:00p (ET) |
| New Orleans at Houston | 12:00p (CT) |
| Indianapolis at Jacksonville | 1:00p (ET) |
| Carolina at Miami | 1:00p (ET) |
| Detroit at Tampa Bay | 1:00p (ET) |
| New England at Las Vegas | 1:05p (PT) |
| Arizona at L.A. Rams | 1:25p (PT) |
| Philadelphia at N.Y. Jets | 4:25p (ET) |
| N.Y. Giants at Buffalo | 8:20p (ET) |

***MONDAY, OCTOBER 16***

| | |
|---|---|
| Dallas at L.A. Chargers (Mon) | 5:15p (PT) |

### WEEK 7

***THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19***

| | |
|---|---|
| Jacksonville at New Orleans (Thu) | 7:15p (CT) |

***SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22***

| | |
|---|---|
| Detroit at Baltimore | 1:00p (ET) |
| Las Vegas at Chicago | 12:00p (CT) |
| Cleveland at Indianapolis | 1:00p (ET) |
| Buffalo at New England | 1:00p (ET) |
| Washington at N.Y. Giants | 1:00p (ET) |
| Atlanta at Tampa Bay | 1:00p (ET) |
| Pittsburgh at L.A. Rams | 1:05p (PT) |
| Arizona at Seattle | 1:05p (PT) |
| Green Bay at Denver | 2:25p (MT) |
| L.A. Chargers at Kansas City | 3:25p (CT) |
| Miami at Philadelphia | 8:20p (ET) |

***MONDAY, OCTOBER 23***

| | |
|---|---|
| San Francisco at Minnesota (Mon) | 7:15p (CT) |

### WEEK 8

***THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26***

| | |
|---|---|
| Tampa Bay at Buffalo (Thu) | 8:15p (ET) |

***SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29***

| | |
|---|---|
| Houston at Carolina | 1:00p (ET) |
| L.A. Rams at Dallas | 12:00p (CT) |
| Minnesota at Green Bay | 12:00p (CT) |
| New Orleans at Indianapolis | 1:00p (ET) |
| New England at Miami | 1:00p (ET) |
| N.Y. Jets at N.Y. Giants | 1:00p (ET) |
| Jacksonville at Pittsburgh | 1:00p (ET) |
| Atlanta at Tennessee | 12:00p (CT) |
| Philadelphia at Washington | 1:00p (ET) |
| Cleveland at Seattle | 1:05p (PT) |
| Baltimore at Arizona | 1:25p (MST) |
| Kansas City at Denver | 2:25p (MT) |
| Cincinnati at San Francisco | 1:25p (PT) |
| Chicago at L.A. Chargers | 5:20p (PT) |

***MONDAY, OCTOBER 30***

| | |
|---|---|
| Las Vegas at Detroit (Mon) | 8:15p (ET) |

### WEEK 9

***THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2***

| | |
|---|---|
| Tennessee at Pittsburgh (Thu) | 8:15p (ET) |

***SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5***

| | |
|---|---|
| Miami vs Kansas City (Frankfurt) | 3:30p (ET) |
| Minnesota at Atlanta | 1:00p (ET) |
| Seattle at Baltimore | 1:00p (ET) |
| Arizona at Cleveland | 1:00p (ET) |
| L.A. Rams at Green Bay | 12:00p (CT) |
| Tampa Bay at Houston | 12:00p (CT) |
| Washington at New England | 1:00p (ET) |
| Chicago at New Orleans | 12:00p (CT) |
| Indianapolis at Carolina | 4:05p (ET) |
| N.Y. Giants at Las Vegas | 1:25p (PT) |
| Dallas at Philadelphia | 4:25p (ET) |
| Buffalo at Cincinnati | 8:20p (ET) |

***MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6***

| | |
|---|---|
| L.A. Chargers at N.Y. Jets (Mon) | 8:15p (ET) |

### WEEK 10

***THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9***

| | |
|---|---|
| Carolina at Chicago (Thu) | 7:15p (CT) |

***SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12***

| | |
|---|---|
| Indianapolis vs New England (Frankfurt) | 3:30p (ET) |
| Cleveland at Baltimore | 1:00p (ET) |
| Houston at Cincinnati | 1:00p (ET) |
| San Francisco at Jacksonville | 1:00p (ET) |
| New Orleans at Minnesota | 12:00p (CT) |
| Green Bay at Pittsburgh | 1:00p (ET) |
| Tennessee at Tampa Bay | 1:00p (ET) |
| Atlanta at Arizona | 2:05p (MST) |
| Detroit at L.A. Chargers | 1:05p (PT) |
| N.Y. Giants at Dallas | 3:25p (CT) |
| Washington at Seattle | 1:25p (PT) |
| N.Y. Jets at Las Vegas | 5:20p (PT) |

***MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13***

| | |
|---|---|
| Denver at Buffalo (Mon) | 8:15p (ET) |

### WEEK 11

***THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16***

| | |
|---|---|
| Cincinnati at Baltimore (Thu) | 8:15p (ET) |

***SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19***

| | |
|---|---|
| Dallas at Carolina | 1:00p (ET) |
| Pittsburgh at Cleveland | 1:00p (ET) |
| Chicago at Detroit | 1:00p (ET) |
| L.A. Chargers at Green Bay | 12:00p (CT) |
| Arizona at Houston | 12:00p (CT) |
| Tennessee at Jacksonville | 1:00p (ET) |
| Las Vegas at Miami | 1:00p (ET) |
| N.Y. Giants at Washington | 1:00p (ET) |
| Tampa Bay at San Francisco | 1:05p (PT) |
| N.Y. Jets at Buffalo | 4:25p (ET) |
| Seattle at L.A. Rams | 1:25p (PT) |
| Minnesota at Denver | 6:20p (MT) |

***MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20***

| | |
|---|---|
| Philadelphia at Kansas City (Mon) | 7:15p (CT) |

### WEEK 12

***THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23***

| | |
|---|---|
| Green Bay at Detroit (Thanksgiving) | 12:30p (ET) |
| Washington at Dallas (Thanksgiving) | 3:30p (CT) |
| San Francisco at Seattle (Thanksgiving) | 5:20p (PT) |

***FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24***

| | |
|---|---|
| Miami at N.Y. Jets (Fri) | 3:00p (ET) |

***SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26***

| | |
|---|---|
| New Orleans at Atlanta | 1:00p (ET) |
| Pittsburgh at Cincinnati | 1:00p (ET) |
| Jacksonville at Houston | 12:00p (CT) |
| Tampa Bay at Indianapolis | 1:00p (ET) |
| New England at N.Y. Giants | 1:00p (ET) |
| Carolina at Tennessee | 12:00p (CT) |
| L.A. Rams at Arizona | 2:05p (MST) |
| Cleveland at Denver | 2:05p (MT) |
| Kansas City at Las Vegas | 1:25p (PT) |
| Buffalo at Philadelphia | 4:25p (ET) |
| Baltimore at L.A. Chargers | 5:20p (PT) |

***MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27***

| | |
|---|---|
| Chicago at Minnesota (Mon) | 7:15p (CT) |

### WEEK 13

***THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30***

| | |
|---|---|
| Seattle at Dallas (Thu) | 7:15p (CT) |

***SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3***

| | |
|---|---|
| L.A. Chargers at New England | 1:00p (ET) |
| Detroit at New Orleans | 12:00p (CT) |
| Atlanta at N.Y. Jets | 1:00p (ET) |
| Arizona at Pittsburgh | 1:00p (ET) |
| Carolina at Tampa Bay | 1:00p (ET) |
| Indianapolis at Tennessee | 12:00p (CT) |
| Miami at Washington | 1:00p (ET) |
| Denver at Houston | 3:05p (CT) |
| Cleveland at L.A. Rams | 1:25p (PT) |
| San Francisco at Philadelphia | 4:25p (ET) |
| Kansas City at Green Bay | 7:20p (CT) |

***MONDAY, DECEMBER 4***

| | |
|---|---|
| Cincinnati at Jacksonville (Mon) | 8:15p (ET) |

### WEEK 14

***THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7***

| | |
|---|---|
| New England at Pittsburgh (Thu) | 8:15p (ET) |

***SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10***

| | |
|---|---|
| Tampa Bay at Atlanta | 1:00p (ET) |
| L.A. Rams at Baltimore | 1:00p (ET) |
| Detroit at Chicago | 12:00p (CT) |
| Indianapolis at Cincinnati | 1:00p (ET) |
| Jacksonville at Cleveland | 1:00p (ET) |
| Carolina at New Orleans | 12:00p (CT) |
| Houston at N.Y. Jets | 1:00p (ET) |
| Minnesota at Las Vegas | 1:05p (PT) |
| Seattle at San Francisco | 1:05p (PT) |
| Buffalo at Kansas City | 3:25p (CT) |
| Denver at L.A. Chargers | 1:25p (PT) |
| Philadelphia at Dallas | 7:20p (CT) |

***MONDAY, DECEMBER 11***

| | |
|---|---|
| Tennessee at Miami (Mon) | 8:15p (ET) |
| Green Bay at N.Y. Giants (Mon) | 8:15p (ET) |

### WEEK 15

***THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14***

| | |
|---|---|
| L.A. Chargers at Las Vegas (Thu) | 5:15p (PT) |

***SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16***

| | |
|---|---|
| TBD | TBD |
| TBD | TBD |
| TBD | TBD |
| Saturday Pool Date/Time/Network | TBD |
| Atlanta at Carolina | TBD |
| Minnesota at Cincinnati | TBD |
| Chicago at Cleveland | TBD |
| Denver at Detroit | TBD |
| Pittsburgh at Indianapolis | TBD |

***SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17***

| | |
|---|---|
| Tampa Bay at Green Bay | 12:00p (CT) |

# NFL SCHEDULES 2023

N.Y. Jets at Miami 1:00p (ET)
N.Y. Giants at New Orleans 12:00p (CT)
Houston at Tennessee 12:00p (CT)
San Francisco at Arizona 2:05p (MST)
Washington at L.A. Rams 1:05p (PT)
Dallas at Buffalo 4:25p (ET)
Philadelphia at Seattle 1:25p (PT)
Baltimore at Jacksonville 8:20p (ET)

***MONDAY, DECEMBER 18***
Kansas City at New England (Mon) 8:15p (ET)

## WEEK 16

***THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21***
New Orleans at L.A. Rams (Thu) 5:15p (PT)

***SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23***
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh (Sat) 4:30p (ET)
Buffalo at L.A. Chargers (Sat) 5:00p (PT)

***SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24***
Indianapolis at Atlanta 1:00p (ET)
Green Bay at Carolina 1:00p (ET)
Cleveland at Houston 12:00p (CT)
Detroit at Minnesota 12:00p (CT)
Washington at N.Y. Jets 1:00p (ET)
Seattle at Tennessee 12:00p (CT)
Jacksonville at Tampa Bay 4:05p (ET)
Arizona at Chicago 3:25p (CT)
Dallas at Miami 4:25p (ET)
New England at Denver 6:15p (MT)

***MONDAY, DECEMBER 25***
Las Vegas at Kansas City (Mon) 12:00p (CT)
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia (Mon) 4:30p (ET)
Baltimore at San Francisco (Mon) 5:15p (PT)

## WEEK 17

***THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28***
N.Y. Jets at Cleveland (Thu) 8:15p (ET)

***SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30***
Detroit at Dallas (Sat) 7:15p (CT)

***SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31***
Miami at Baltimore 1:00p (ET)
New England at Buffalo 1:00p (ET)
Atlanta at Chicago 12:00p (CT)
Tennessee at Houston 12:00p (CT)
Las Vegas at Indianapolis 1:00p (ET)
Carolina at Jacksonville 1:00p (ET)
L.A. Rams at N.Y. Giants 1:00p (ET)
Arizona at Philadelphia 1:00p (ET)
New Orleans at Tampa Bay 1:00p (ET)
San Francisco at Washington 1:00p (ET)
Pittsburgh at Seattle 1:05p (PT)
L.A. Chargers at Denver 2:25p (MT)
Cincinnati at Kansas City 3:25p (CT)
Green Bay at Minnesota 7:20p (CT)

## WEEK 18

***SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2024***
Game TBD TBD
Game TBD TBD

***SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024***
Games TBD TBD
Games TBD TBD
Games TBD TBD
Games TBD TBD
Game TBD TBD
Week 18 Game Pool Date/Time/Network TBD
Seattle at Arizona TBD
Pittsburgh at Baltimore TBD
Tampa Bay at Carolina TBD
Cleveland at Cincinnati TBD
Minnesota at Detroit TBD
Chicago at Green Bay TBD
Houston at Indianapolis TBD
Kansas City at L.A. Chargers TBD
Denver at Las Vegas TBD
Buffalo at Miami TBD
N.Y. Jets at New England TBD
Atlanta at New Orleans TBD
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants TBD
L.A. Rams at San Francisco TBD
Jacksonville at Tennessee TBD
Dallas at Washington TBD

** - Select Prime Time games subject to change; Week 18 games TBD*

## POSTSEASON

***SATURDAY, JANUARY 13; SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 AND MONDAY, JANUARY 15***
AFC and NFC Wild-Card Playoffs

***SATURDAY JANUARY 20 AND SUNDAY JANUARY 21***
AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs

***SUNDAY, JANUARY 28***
AFC and NFC Championship Game

***SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11***
Super Bowl LVIII, Allegiant Stadium, Las Vegas (CBS)

The NFL schedule features five international regular-season games – three in the UK and two in Germany, marking the first-ever regular-season NFL games to be hosted in Frankfurt. As part of the League's expansion of the regular season to 17 games, it was determined that, beginning with the 2022 season, up to four of the teams from the conference whose teams were eligible for a ninth regular-season home game would instead be designated to play a neutral-site international game each year.

The international slate features games in three consecutive weeks, beginning in London at Wembley Stadium in Week 4 with a matchup between Jacksonville and Atlanta (9:30 AM ET, ESPN+). The London action shifts to Tottenham Hotspur Stadium the next two weeks, as Jacksonville and Buffalo meet in Week 5 (9:30 AM ET, NFL Network) and Tennessee and Baltimore face off in Week 6 (9:30 AM ET, NFL Network). The Jaguars are scheduled to become the first NFL team to play two regular-season games outside of the United States in the same season.

As part of the League's commitment to playing regular-season games in Germany, the NFL will play two games in 2023 at Frankfurt Stadium. In Week 9, Kansas City takes on Miami (9:30 AM ET, NFL Network) and in Week 10, Indianapolis meets New England (9:30 AM ET, NFL Network) to wrap up the 2023 international games.

## AMAZON PRIME VIDEO THURSDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

All times home team

*Thursday Night Football will air exclusively on Prime Video, kicking off its regular-season slate in Week 2 as the Philadelphia Eagles host the Minnesota Vikings. Prime Video will broadcast 15 Thursday Night Football games in Weeks 2-17 (excluding Thanksgiving night). Plus one Black Friday special. There will also be one preseason Thursday night game on Prime Video. The games will be available on over-the-air stations in the markets of the competing teams.*

### PRESEASON

***THURSDAY, AUGUST 24***
Indianapolis at Philadelphia 8:00

### REGULAR SEASON

***THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14***
Minnesota at Philadelphia 8:15

***THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21***
N.Y. Giants at San Francisco 5:15

***THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28***
Detroit at Green Bay 7:15

***THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5***
Chicago at Washington 8:15

***THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12***
Denver at Kansas City 7:15

***THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19***
Jacksonville at New Orleans 7:15

***THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26***
Tampa Bay at Buffalo 8:15

***THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2***
Tennessee at Pittsburgh 8:15

***THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9***
Carolina at Chicago 7:15

***THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16***
Cincinnati at Baltimore 8:15

***FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24***
Miami at N.Y. Jets 3:00

***THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30***
Seattle at Dallas 7:15

***THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7***
New England at Pittsburgh 8:15

***THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14***
L.A. Chargers at Las Vegas 5:15

***THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21***
New Orleans at L.A. Rams 5:15

***THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28***
N.Y. Jets at Cleveland 8:15

NFL NETWORK

In Week 15, three of the five matchups designated as TBD will be played on Saturday with the remainder to be played on Sunday. Specific dates and start times for such designated Week 15 matchups will be determined and announced no later than four weeks prior to game day when the networks for those games will also be announced.

## ESPN MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

All times home team
All games ESPN unless otherwise noted
ESPN/ABC indicates a simulcast

### PRESEASON

***MONDAY, AUGUST 21***
Baltimore at Washington 8:15

### REGULAR SEASON

***MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11***
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets 8:15

***MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18***
New Orleans at Carolina 7:15
Cleveland at Pittsburgh (ABC) 8:15

***MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25***
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay (ABC) 7:15
L.A. Rams at Cincinnati 8:15

***SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1***
Atlanta at Jacksonville (London/ESPN+) 9:30

***MONDAY, OCTOBER 2***
Seattle at N.Y. Giants 8:15

***MONDAY, OCTOBER 9***
Green Bay at Las Vegas 5:15

***MONDAY, OCTOBER 16***
Dallas at L.A. Chargers 8:15

***MONDAY, OCTOBER 23***
San Francisco at Minnesota 7:15

***MONDAY, OCTOBER 30***
Las Vegas at Detroit 8:15

***MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6***
L.A. Chargers at N.Y. Jets 8:15

***MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13***
Denver at Buffalo 8:15

***MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20***
Philadelphia at Kansas City (ESPN/ABC) 7:15

***MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27***
Chicago at Minnesota 7:15

***MONDAY, DECEMBER 4***
Cincinnati at Jacksonville 8:15

***MONDAY, DECEMBER 11***
Green Bay at N.Y. Giants (ABC) 8:15
Tennessee at Miami 8:15

***MONDAY, DECEMBER 18***
Kansas City at New England 8:15

***MONDAY, DECEMBER 25***
Baltimore at San Francisco (ABC/ESPN) 5:15

***SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30***
Detroit at Dallas 7:15

***SATURDAY, JANUARY 6***
TBD 4:30 ET
TBD 8:15 ET

## NBC SCHEDULE

All times home team

### PRESEASON

***THURSDAY, AUGUST 3***
Cleveland vs. N.Y. Jets, Canton 8:00 ET

### REGULAR SEASON

***THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7***
Detroit at Kansas City 7:20

***SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10***
Dallas at N.Y. Giants 8:20

***SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17***
Miami at New England 8:20

***SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24***
Pittsburgh at Las Vegas 5:20

***SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1***
Kansas City at N.Y. Jets 8:20

****SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8***
Dallas at San Francisco 5:20

****SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15***
N.Y. Giants at Buffalo 8:20

****SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22***
Miami at Philadelphia 8:20

****SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29***
Chicago at L.A. Chargers 5:20

****SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5***
Buffalo at Cincinnati 8:20

****SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12***
N.Y. Jets at Las Vegas 5:20

****SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19***
Minnesota at Denver 6:20

****THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23***
San Francisco at Seattle 5:20

****SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26***
Baltimore at L.A. Chargers 5:20

****SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3***
Kansas City at Green Bay 7:20

****SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10***
Philadelphia at Dallas 7:20

****SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17***
Baltimore at Jacksonville 8:20

***SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23***
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh 4:30
Buffalo at L.A. Chargers (Peacock) 5:00

****SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31***
Green Bay at Minnesota 7:20

***SUNDAY, JANUARY 7***
TBD

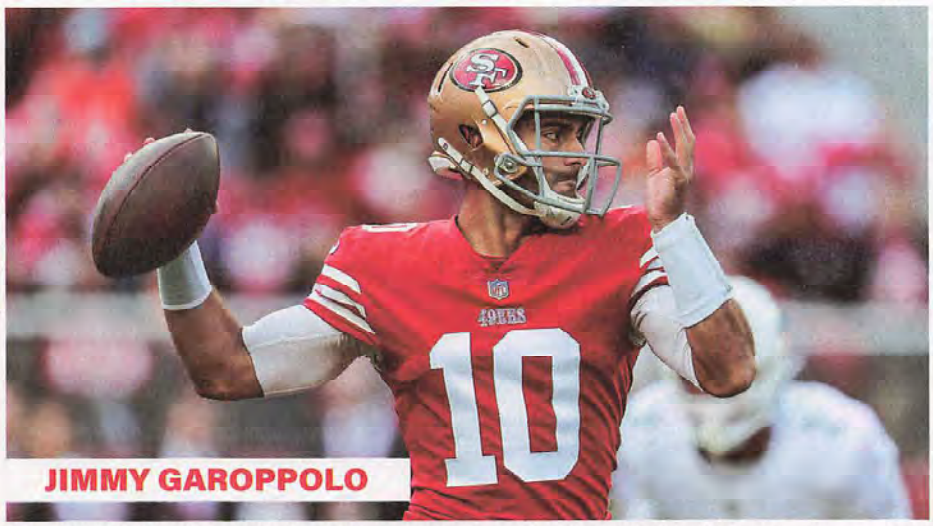
*Flex Scheduling Available
For Sunday Night Football, it may be used up to twice in Weeks 5-10, and at the NFL's discretion during Weeks 11-17. For Monday Night Football, it may be used at the NFL's discretion in Weeks 12-17.

# NFC FINAL STATISTICS

* Denotes Rookies

## PASSING

| | Att | Comp | Comp% | Yds | Avg | TD | Lg | Int | Rating |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Garoppolo, S.F. | 308 | 207 | 67.2 | 2437 | 7.91 | 16 | 57t | 4 | 103.0 |
| Hurts, Phi. | 460 | 306 | 66.5 | 3701 | 8.05 | 22 | 68 | 6 | 101.5 |
| G. Smith, Sea. | 572 | 399 | 69.8 | 4282 | 7.49 | 30 | 54 | 11 | 100.9 |
| Goff, Det. | 587 | 382 | 65.1 | 4438 | 7.56 | 29 | 81 | 7 | 99.3 |
| Dalton, N.O. | 378 | 252 | 66.7 | 2871 | 7.60 | 18 | 64 | 9 | 95.2 |
| Jones, NY-G | 472 | 317 | 67.2 | 3205 | 6.79 | 15 | 65t | 5 | 92.5 |
| Cousins, Min. | 643 | 424 | 65.9 | 4547 | 7.07 | 29 | 66 | 14 | 92.5 |
| Prescott, Dal. | 394 | 261 | 66.2 | 2860 | 7.26 | 23 | 68t | 15 | 91.1 |
| Aa. Rodgers, G.B. | 542 | 350 | 64.6 | 3695 | 6.82 | 26 | 58t | 12 | 91.1 |
| Brady, T.B. | 733 | 490 | 66.8 | 4694 | 6.40 | 25 | 63t | 9 | 90.7 |
| Heinicke, Was. | 259 | 161 | 62.2 | 1859 | 7.18 | 12 | 61 | 6 | 89.6 |
| Mariota, Atl. | 300 | 184 | 61.3 | 2219 | 7.40 | 15 | 75t | 9 | 88.2 |
| Stafford, LA-R | 303 | 206 | 68.0 | 2087 | 6.89 | 10 | 75t | 8 | 87.4 |
| Murray, Ariz | 390 | 259 | 66.4 | 2368 | 6.07 | 14 | 38t | 7 | 87.2 |
| Fields, Chi. | 318 | 192 | 60.4 | 2242 | 7.05 | 17 | 56 | 11 | 85.2 |
| Wentz, Was. | 276 | 172 | 62.3 | 1755 | 6.36 | 11 | 75t | 9 | 80.2 |
| Mayfield, Car.-LA-R | 335 | 201 | 60.0 | 2163 | 6.46 | 10 | 75t | 8 | 79.0 |



JIMMY GAROPPOLO

## RUSHING

| | Att | Yds | Avg | Lg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barkley, NY-G | 295 | 1312 | 4.4 | 68 | 10 |
| Sanders, Phi. | 259 | 1269 | 4.9 | 40t | 11 |
| Cook, Min. | 264 | 1173 | 4.4 | 81t | 8 |
| Fields, Chi. (QB) | 160 | 1143 | 7.1 | 67t | 8 |
| McCaffrey, Car.-S.F. | 244 | 1139 | 4.7 | 49 | 8 |
| A. Jones, G.B. | 213 | 1121 | 5.3 | 36 | 2 |
| Jama. Williams, Det. | 262 | 1066 | 4.1 | 58 | 17 |
| *Walker, Sea. | 228 | 1050 | 4.6 | 74t | 9 |
| *Allgeier, Atl. | 210 | 1035 | 4.9 | 44 | 3 |
| Pollard, Dal. | 193 | 1007 | 5.2 | 57t | 9 |
| Foreman, Car. | 203 | 914 | 4.5 | 60 | 5 |
| Kamara, N.O. | 223 | 897 | 4.0 | 27 | 2 |
| Elliott, Dal. | 231 | 876 | 3.8 | 27 | 12 |
| Montgomery, Chi. | 201 | 801 | 4.0 | 28 | 5 |
| *Robinson, Was. | 205 | 797 | 3.9 | 24 | 2 |
| C. Akers, LA-R | 188 | 786 | 4.2 | 42 | 7 |
| Conner, Ariz | 183 | 782 | 4.3 | 23 | 7 |
| Dillon, G.B. | 186 | 770 | 4.1 | 27 | 7 |
| Hurts, Phi. (QB) | 165 | 760 | 4.6 | 42 | 13 |
| Herbert, Chi. | 129 | 731 | 5.7 | 63 | 4 |
| Jones, NY-G (QB) | 120 | 708 | 5.9 | 25 | 7 |
| Patterson, Atl. | 144 | 695 | 4.8 | 40 | 8 |
| Fournette, T.B. | 189 | 668 | 3.5 | 23 | 3 |
| Hill, N.O. (TE) | 96 | 575 | 6.0 | 60t | 7 |
| Gibson, Was. | 149 | 546 | 3.7 | 20 | 3 |
| Swift, Det. | 99 | 542 | 5.5 | 50 | 5 |
| *R. White, T.B. | 129 | 481 | 3.7 | 35 | 1 |
| Hubbard, Car. | 95 | 466 | 4.9 | 35 | 2 |
| Mariota, Atl. (QB) | 85 | 438 | 5.2 | 30 | 4 |
| Murray, Ariz (QB) | 67 | 418 | 6.2 | 42 | 3 |
| Huntley, Atl. | 76 | 366 | 4.8 | 30 | 1 |
| G. Smith, Sea. (QB) | 68 | 366 | 5.4 | 25 | 1 |
| Penny, Sea. | 57 | 346 | 6.1 | 41t | 2 |
| Benjamin, Ariz-Hou.-N.O. | 77 | 313 | 4.1 | 45 | 2 |
| Mattison, Min. | 74 | 283 | 3.8 | 15 | 5 |

## PASS RECEIVING

| | Rec | Yds | Avg | Lg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jefferson, Min. | 128 | 1809 | 14.1 | 64 | 8 |
| Lamb, Dal. | 107 | 1359 | 12.7 | 39 | 9 |
| St. Brown, Det. | 106 | 1161 | 11.0 | 49 | 6 |
| Godwin, T.B. | 104 | 1023 | 9.8 | 44 | 3 |
| D. Smith, Phi. | 95 | 1196 | 12.6 | 45 | 7 |
| Metcalf, Sea. | 90 | 1048 | 11.6 | 54 | 6 |
| Brown, Phi. | 88 | 1496 | 17.0 | 78t | 11 |
| Hockenson, Det.-Min. (TE) | 86 | 914 | 10.6 | 81 | 6 |
| McCaffrey, Car.-S.F. (RB) | 85 | 741 | 8.7 | 49 | 5 |
| Lockett, Sea. | 84 | 1033 | 12.3 | 40t | 9 |
| Aiyuk, S.F. | 78 | 1015 | 13.0 | 54 | 8 |
| McLaurin, Was. | 77 | 1191 | 15.5 | 52 | 5 |
| Evans, T.B. | 77 | 1124 | 14.6 | 63t | 6 |
| Kupp, LA-R | 75 | 812 | 10.8 | 75t | 6 |
| Fournette, T.B. (RB) | 73 | 523 | 7.2 | 44 | 3 |
| *Olave, N.O. | 72 | 1042 | 14.5 | 53t | 4 |
| *London, Atl. | 72 | 866 | 12.0 | 40 | 4 |

| | Rec | Yds | Avg | Lg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Higbee, LA-R (TE) | 72 | 620 | 8.6 | 26 | 3 |
| Thielen, Min. | 70 | 716 | 10.2 | 36 | 6 |
| M. Brown, Ariz | 67 | 709 | 10.6 | 47 | 3 |
| Hopkins, Ariz | 64 | 717 | 11.2 | 33t | 3 |
| Samuel, Was. | 64 | 656 | 10.3 | 49t | 4 |
| Moore, Car. | 63 | 888 | 14.1 | 62t | 7 |
| Lazard, G.B. | 60 | 788 | 13.1 | 47 | 6 |
| Kittle, S.F. (TE) | 60 | 765 | 12.8 | 54t | 11 |
| Osborn, Min. | 60 | 650 | 10.8 | 66 | 5 |
| A. Jones, G.B. (RB) | 59 | 395 | 6.7 | 30 | 5 |
| Schultz, Dal. (TE) | 57 | 577 | 10.1 | 30 | 5 |
| James, NY-G | 57 | 569 | 10.0 | 33 | 4 |
| Kamara, N.O. (RB) | 57 | 490 | 8.6 | 54 | 2 |
| Barkley, NY-G (RB) | 57 | 338 | 5.9 | 41 | 0 |
| Samuel, S.F. | 56 | 632 | 11.3 | 57t | 2 |
| Goedert, Phi. (TE) | 55 | 702 | 12.8 | 31 | 3 |
| Tonyan, G.B. (TE) | 53 | 470 | 8.9 | 24 | 2 |

| | Rec | Yds | Avg | Lg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dortch, Ariz | 52 | 467 | 9.0 | 47 | 2 |
| Gage, T.B. | 51 | 426 | 8.4 | 23 | 5 |
| Kmet, Chi. (TE) | 50 | 544 | 10.9 | 50t | 7 |
| Fant, Sea. (TE) | 50 | 486 | 9.7 | 51 | 4 |
| *R. White, T.B. (RB) | 50 | 290 | 5.8 | 20 | 2 |
| Swift, Det. (RB) | 48 | 389 | 8.1 | 25 | 3 |
| Raymond, Det. | 47 | 616 | 13.1 | 56 | 0 |
| Ertz, Ariz (TE) | 47 | 406 | 8.6 | 32 | 4 |
| Slayton, NY-G | 46 | 724 | 15.7 | 55 | 2 |
| Claypool, Pit.-Chi. | 46 | 451 | 9.8 | 31 | 1 |
| Gibson, Was. (RB) | 46 | 353 | 7.7 | 26 | 2 |
| Conner, Ariz (RB) | 46 | 300 | 6.5 | 22 | 1 |
| N. Brown, Dal. | 43 | 555 | 12.9 | 51 | 3 |
| J. Johnson, N.O. (TE) | 42 | 508 | 12.1 | 41t | 7 |
| *Doubs, G.B. | 42 | 425 | 10.1 | 26 | 3 |
| *Otton, T.B. (TE) | 42 | 391 | 9.3 | 35 | 2 |

## SACKS

| | |
|---|---|
| Bosa, S.F. (DE) | 18.5 |
| Reddick, Phi. (LB) | 16.0 |
| Parsons, Dal. (LB) | 13.5 |
| Burns, Car. (DE) | 12.5 |
| Watt, Ariz (DE) | 12.5 |
| Payne, Was. (DT) | 11.5 |
| B. Graham, Phi. (DE) | 11.0 |
| Hargrave, Phi. (NT) | 11.0 |
| Sweat, Phi. (DE) | 11.0 |
| Hunter, Min. (LB) | 10.5 |
| Z. Smith, Min. (LB) | 10.0 |
| *Hutchinson, Det. (DE) | 9.5 |
| Nwosu, Sea. (LB) | 9.5 |
| Taylor, Sea. (LB) | 9.5 |
| Floyd, LA-R (LB) | 9.0 |
| Armstrong, Dal. (DE) | 8.5 |
| Jordan, N.O. (DE) | 8.5 |
| P. Smith, G.B. (LB) | 8.5 |
| *Houston, Det. (LB) | 8.0 |
| Sweat, Was. (DE) | 8.0 |
| Allen, Was. (DT) | 7.5 |
| Lawrence, NY-G (NT) | 7.5 |
| Cox, Phi. (DE) | 7.0 |
| Elliss, N.O. (LB) | 7.0 |
| Luvu, Car. (LB) | 7.0 |
| D. Davis, N.O. (LB) | 6.5 |
| Vea, T.B. (NT) | 6.5 |

## INTERCEPTIONS

| | Int | Yds | Avg | Lg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gardner-Johnson, Phi. | 6 | 54 | 9.0 | 25 | 0 |
| *Woolen, Sea. | 6 | 47 | 7.8 | 40t | 1 |
| Gipson, S.F. | 5 | 141 | 28.2 | 56 | 0 |
| Peterson, Min. | 5 | 92 | 18.4 | 39 | 0 |
| Alexander, G.B. | 5 | 59 | 11.8 | 29 | 0 |
| H. Smith, Min. | 5 | 58 | 11.6 | 35 | 0 |
| *Bland, Dal. | 5 | 19 | 3.8 | 15 | 0 |
| Diggs, Sea. | 4 | 70 | 17.5 | 27 | 0 |
| *Joseph, Det. | 4 | 70 | 17.5 | 38 | 0 |
| Hufanga, S.F. | 4 | 61 | 15.3 | 52t | 1 |
| Ramsey, LA-R | 4 | 53 | 13.3 | 28 | 0 |
| E. Jackson, Chi. | 4 | 44 | 11.0 | 26 | 0 |
| Douglas, G.B. | 4 | 26 | 6.5 | 22 | 0 |
| Forrest, Was. | 4 | 1 | 0.3 | 1 | 0 |
| *Durant, LA-R | 3 | 151 | 50.3 | 85t | 1 |
| R. Ford, G.B. | 3 | 87 | 29.0 | 34 | 0 |
| *Gordon, Chi. | 3 | 78 | 26.0 | 42 | 0 |
| Wilson, Ariz | 3 | 77 | 25.7 | 39 | 1 |
| Fuller, Was. | 3 | 66 | 22.0 | 37t | 2 |
| Bradberry, Phi. | 3 | 54 | 18.0 | 27t | 1 |
| Horn, Car. | 3 | 49 | 16.3 | 31 | 0 |
| Mathieu, N.O. | 3 | 44 | 14.7 | 41 | 0 |
| Hooker, Dal. | 3 | 29 | 9.7 | 26 | 0 |
| *Hutchinson, Det. | 3 | 25 | 8.3 | 20 | 0 |
| Slay, Phi. | 3 | 17 | 5.7 | 19 | 0 |
| Diggs, Dal. | 3 | 10 | 3.3 | 7 | 0 |
| J. Ward, S.F. | 3 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |

## SCORING-KICKERS

| | PAT | FG | Lg | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Myers, Sea. | 41/42 | 34/37 | 56 | 143 |
| Maher, Dal. | 50/53 | 29/32 | 60 | 137 |
| Gould, S.F. | 50/51 | 27/32 | 51 | 131 |
| Koo, Atl. | 33/35 | 32/37 | 54 | 129 |
| Pineiro, Car. | 30/32 | 33/35 | 54 | 129 |
| Gano, NY-G | 32/34 | 29/32 | 57 | 119 |
| Joseph, Min. | 40/46 | 26/33 | 61 | 118 |
| Succop, T.B. | 24/25 | 31/38 | 54 | 117 |
| Gay, LA-R | 31/32 | 28/30 | 58 | 115 |
| Crosby, G.B. | 37/39 | 25/29 | 56 | 112 |
| Elliott, Phi. | 51/53 | 20/23 | 56 | 111 |
| Badgley, Chi.-Det. | 33/33 | 24/28 | 53 | 105 |
| Lutz, N.O. | 33/33 | 23/31 | 60 | 102 |
| Slye, Was. | 24/28 | 25/30 | 58 | 99 |
| Santos, Chi. | 27/32 | 21/23 | 51 | 90 |
| Prater, Ariz | 17/18 | 22/25 | 57 | 83 |
| Seibert, Det. | 12/12 | 3/5 | 48 | 21 |
| Ammendola, ALL totals | 5/7 | 5/7 | 31 | 20 |
| Blankenship, Ind.-Ariz | 4/5 | 4/5 | 50 | 16 |
| Eberle, Det. | 2/4 | 1/1 | 49 | 5 |
| Wishnowsky, S.F. | 1/2 | 0/0 | – | 1 |

## SCORING-NON-KICKERS

| | TD | TDR | TDP | Ret | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jama. Williams, Det. (RB) | 17 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 104 |
| Hurts, Phi. (QB) | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 82 |
| McCaffrey, Car.-S.F. (RB) | 13 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 78 |
| Elliott, Dal. (RB) | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 72 |
| Pollard, Dal. (RB) | 12 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 72 |
| Brown, Phi. (WR) | 11 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 66 |
| Kittle, S.F. (TE) | 11 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 66 |
| Sanders, Phi. (RB) | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 66 |
| Barkley, NY-G (RB) | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 62 |
| Cook, Min. (RB) | 10 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 60 |
| Jefferson, Min. (WR) | 9 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 56 |
| Hill, N.O. (TE) | 9 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 54 |
| Lamb, Dal. (WR) | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 54 |
| Lockett, Sea. (WR) | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 54 |
| Patterson, Atl. (RB) | 9 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 54 |
| *Walker, Sea. (RB) | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| *Watson, G.B. (WR) | 9 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 54 |
| Swift, Det. (RB) | 8 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 50 |
| Aiyuk, S.F. (WR) | 8 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 48 |
| Conner, Ariz (RB) | 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 48 |
| Fields, Chi. (QB) | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| *Dotson, Was. (WR) | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 44 |
| A. Jones, G.B. (RB) | 7 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 44 |
| C. Akers, LA-R (RB) | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Dillon, G.B. (RB) | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| J. Johnson, N.O. (TE) | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 42 |
| Jones, NY-G (QB) | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Kmet, Chi. (TE) | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 42 |
| Kupp, LA-R (WR) | 7 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 42 |
| Moore, Car. (WR) | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 42 |
| D. Smith, Phi. (WR) | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 42 |
| Hockenson, Det.-Min. (TE) | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 40 |
| Thielen, Min. (WR) | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 38 |
| Evans, T.B. (WR) | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 36 |
| Fournette, T.B. (RB) | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 36 |
| Lazard, G.B. (WR) | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 36 |
| Mattison, Min. (RB) | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 36 |
| Metcalf, Sea. (WR) | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 36 |
| Montgomery, Chi. (RB) | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 36 |
| St. Brown, Det. (WR) | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 36 |
| Foreman, Car. (RB) | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 32 |
| Gage, T.B. (WR) | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 32 |
| Gibson, Was. (RB) | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 30 |
| Herbert, Chi. (RB) | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 30 |
| McLaurin, Was. (WR) | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 30 |
| Osborn, Min. (WR) | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 30 |
| Samuel, Was. (WR) | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 30 |
| Samuel, S.F. (WR) | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 30 |
| Schultz, Dal. (TE) | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 30 |
| Ertz, Ariz (TE) | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 28 |

## PUNT RETURNS

| | Ret | Yds | Avg | Lg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Raymond, Det. | 20 | 264 | 13.2 | 47t | 1 |
| McCloud, S.F. | 33 | 356 | 10.8 | 35 | 0 |
| Turpin, Dal. | 29 | 303 | 10.4 | 52 | 0 |
| *Shaheed, N.O. | 20 | 193 | 9.7 | 42 | 0 |
| *Covey, Phi. | 33 | 308 | 9.3 | 27 | 0 |
| Milne, Was. | 40 | 311 | 7.8 | 19 | 0 |
| Powell, LA-R | 24 | 177 | 7.4 | 22 | 0 |
| James, NY-G | 24 | 174 | 7.3 | 23 | 0 |
| Dortch, Ariz | 26 | 172 | 6.6 | 18 | 0 |
| Reagor, Min. | 26 | 167 | 6.4 | 25 | 0 |
| S. Smith, Car. | 23 | 143 | 6.2 | 22 | 0 |

## KICKOFF RETURNS

| | Ret | Yds | Avg | Lg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nixon, G.B. | 35 | 1009 | 28.8 | 105t | 1 |
| *V. Jones, Chi. | 22 | 607 | 27.6 | 63 | 0 |
| Ju. Jackson, Det. | 23 | 613 | 26.7 | 42 | 0 |
| Nwangwu, Min. | 35 | 920 | 26.3 | 97t | 1 |
| Turpin, Dal. | 21 | 508 | 24.2 | 63 | 0 |
| Gibson, Was. | 21 | 486 | 23.1 | 45 | 0 |
| McCloud, S.F. | 26 | 599 | 23.0 | 39 | 0 |
| Brightwell, NY-G | 26 | 555 | 21.3 | 47 | 0 |
| Powell, LA-R | 30 | 605 | 20.2 | 34 | 0 |

## TEAM SCORING

| | Rus | Rec | PR | KR | IntR | FumR | Tot | Fg | XP | Sfty | 2PT | Pts | Pts/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Philadelphia | 32 | 25 | – | – | 2 | – | 59 | 22 | 53 | – | 2 | 477 | 28.1 |
| Dallas | 24 | 28 | – | – | – | 3 | 55 | 29 | 50 | – | – | 467 | 27.5 |
| Detroit | 23 | 29 | 1 | – | 1 | – | 54 | 24 | 47 | 1 | 4 | 453 | 26.6 |
| San Francisco | 20 | 30 | – | – | 2 | 1 | 53 | 27 | 51 | – | – | 450 | 26.5 |
| Minnesota | 18 | 30 | – | 1 | – | 1 | 50 | 26 | 40 | – | 3 | 424 | 24.9 |
| Seattle | 12 | 30 | – | – | 1 | – | 44 | 34 | 41 | – | – | 407 | 23.9 |
| Green Bay | 12 | 27 | – | 1 | 2 | – | 42 | 25 | 37 | 1 | 2 | 370 | 21.8 |
| Atlanta | 17 | 17 | – | 1 | 1 | – | 38 | 32 | 33 | 1 | 3 | 365 | 21.5 |
| N.Y. Giants | 21 | 17 | – | – | 1 | 1 | 40 | 29 | 32 | – | 3 | 365 | 21.5 |
| Carolina | 16 | 16 | – | – | 2 | 1 | 36 | 33 | 30 | – | 1 | 347 | 20.4 |
| Arizona | 15 | 17 | – | – | 3 | 2 | 37 | 28 | 24 | – | 5 | 340 | 20 |
| New Orleans | 12 | 24 | – | – | 1 | – | 37 | 23 | 33 | – | 3 | 330 | 19.4 |
| Chicago | 18 | 19 | – | – | – | – | 37 | 25 | 27 | – | 1 | 326 | 19.2 |
| Washington | 9 | 24 | – | – | 2 | 1 | 36 | 25 | 24 | 1 | 2 | 321 | 18.9 |
| Tampa Bay | 5 | 26 | – | – | 1 | – | 32 | 31 | 24 | – | 2 | 313 | 18.4 |
| L.A. Rams | 15 | 16 | – | – | 1 | – | 32 | 28 | 31 | – | – | 307 | 18.1 |

## PUNTING

| | No | Yds | Lg | Avg | TB | Net |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dickson, Sea. | 66 | 3199 | 68 | 48.5 | 3 | 44.4 |
| Hekker, Car. | 81 | 3925 | 68 | 48.5 | 6 | 44.1 |
| Way, Was. | 83 | 3885 | 68 | 46.8 | 5 | 43.0 |
| Anger, Dal. | 68 | 3291 | 83 | 48.4 | 6 | 42.8 |
| *Wright, Min. | 73 | 3457 | 73 | 47.4 | 1 | 42.5 |
| *Camarda, T.B. | 79 | 3859 | 74 | 48.8 | 10 | 41.6 |
| Gillikin, N.O. | 77 | 3571 | 68 | 46.4 | 7 | 41.5 |
| Fox, Det. | 52 | 2525 | 66 | 48.6 | 3 | 41.4 |
| Pinion, Atl. | 62 | 2845 | 73 | 45.9 | 2 | 41.2 |
| Dixon, LA-R | 71 | 3434 | 67 | 48.4 | 4 | 40.8 |
| Lee, Ariz | 67 | 3157 | 65 | 47.1 | 4 | 40.3 |
| *Gill, Chi. | 66 | 3038 | 63 | 46.0 | 3 | 40.3 |
| Gillan, NY-G | 74 | 3463 | 69 | 46.8 | 9 | 40.1 |
| Wishnowsky, S.F. | 61 | 2676 | 74 | 43.9 | 5 | 39.7 |
| Siposs, Phi. | 44 | 2005 | 59 | 45.6 | 3 | 39.6 |
| O'Donnell, G.B. | 52 | 2313 | 72 | 44.5 | 1 | 38.9 |

# AFC FINAL STATISTICS

* Denotes Rookies

## PASSING

| | Att | Comp | Comp% | Yds | Avg | TD | Lg | Int | Rating |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tagovailoa, Mia. | 400 | 259 | 64.8 | 3548 | 8.87 | 25 | 84t | 8 | 105.5 |
| Mahomes, K.C. | 648 | 435 | 67.1 | 5250 | 8.10 | 41 | 67 | 12 | 105.2 |
| Burrow, Cin. | 606 | 414 | 68.3 | 4475 | 7.38 | 35 | 60t | 12 | 100.8 |
| Allen, Buf. | 567 | 359 | 63.3 | 4283 | 7.55 | 35 | 98t | 14 | 96.6 |
| Lawrence, Jac. | 584 | 387 | 66.3 | 4113 | 7.04 | 25 | 59t | 8 | 95.2 |
| Tannehill, Ten. | 325 | 212 | 65.2 | 2536 | 7.80 | 13 | 69 | 6 | 94.6 |
| Herbert, LA-C | 699 | 477 | 68.2 | 4739 | 6.78 | 25 | 55 | 10 | 93.2 |
| L. Jackson, Bal. | 326 | 203 | 62.3 | 2242 | 6.88 | 17 | 75t | 7 | 91.1 |
| Brissett, Cle. | 369 | 236 | 64.0 | 2608 | 7.07 | 12 | 55 | 6 | 88.9 |
| Carr, L.V. | 502 | 305 | 60.8 | 3522 | 7.02 | 24 | 60 | 14 | 86.3 |
| Jones, N.E. | 442 | 288 | 65.2 | 2997 | 6.78 | 14 | 48t | 11 | 84.8 |
| Wilson, Den. | 483 | 292 | 60.5 | 3524 | 7.30 | 16 | 67t | 11 | 84.4 |
| Ryan, Ind. | 461 | 309 | 67.0 | 3057 | 6.63 | 14 | 45 | 13 | 83.9 |
| Mills, Hou. | 479 | 292 | 61.0 | 3118 | 6.51 | 17 | 58 | 15 | 78.8 |
| *Pickett, Pit. | 389 | 245 | 63.0 | 2404 | 6.18 | 7 | 57 | 9 | 76.7 |
| Z. Wilson, NY-J | 242 | 132 | 54.5 | 1688 | 6.98 | 6 | 79 | 7 | 72.8 |

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## RUSHING

| | Att | Yds | Avg | Lg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jacobs, L.V. | 340 | 1653 | 4.9 | 86t | 12 |
| Henry, Ten. | 349 | 1538 | 4.4 | 56 | 13 |
| Chubb, Cle. | 302 | 1525 | 5.0 | 41t | 12 |
| Etienne, Jac. | 220 | 1125 | 5.1 | 62t | 5 |
| Stevenson, N.E. | 210 | 1040 | 5.0 | 49 | 5 |
| Harris, Pit. | 272 | 1038 | 3.8 | 36 | 7 |
| *Pierce, Hou. | 220 | 939 | 4.3 | 75t | 4 |
| Ekeler, LA-C | 204 | 915 | 4.5 | 72t | 13 |
| Mostert, Mia. | 181 | 891 | 4.9 | 67 | 3 |
| Taylor, Ind. | 192 | 861 | 4.5 | 66t | 4 |
| J. Wilson, S.F.-Mia. | 176 | 860 | 4.9 | 41 | 5 |
| *Pacheco, K.C. | 170 | 830 | 4.9 | 31 | 5 |
| Singletary, Buf. | 177 | 819 | 4.6 | 33t | 5 |
| Mixon, Cin. | 210 | 814 | 3.9 | 40 | 7 |
| L. Jackson, Bal. (QB) | 112 | 764 | 6.8 | 79t | 3 |
| Allen, Buf. (QB) | 124 | 762 | 6.1 | 44 | 7 |
| Murray, N.O.-Den. | 171 | 760 | 4.4 | 52 | 6 |
| Dobbins, Bal. | 92 | 520 | 5.7 | 44 | 2 |
| *Cook, Buf. | 89 | 507 | 5.7 | 33 | 2 |
| Drake, Bal. | 109 | 482 | 4.4 | 40 | 4 |
| Hunt, Cle. | 123 | 468 | 3.8 | 24t | 3 |
| *Bre. Hall, NY-J | 80 | 463 | 5.8 | 62t | 4 |
| D. Harris, N.E. | 106 | 462 | 4.4 | 30 | 3 |
| Moss, Buf.-Ind. | 93 | 456 | 4.9 | 43 | 1 |
| Edwards, Bal. | 87 | 433 | 5.0 | 37 | 3 |
| Robinson, Jac.-NY-J | 110 | 425 | 3.9 | 50t | 3 |
| Michael Carter, NY-J | 114 | 402 | 3.5 | 25 | 3 |
| Perine, Cin. | 95 | 394 | 4.1 | 29 | 2 |
| *Warren, Pit. | 77 | 379 | 4.9 | 31 | 1 |
| Mahomes, K.C. (QB) | 61 | 358 | 5.9 | 20 | 4 |
| Gordon, Den.-K.C. | 90 | 318 | 3.5 | 17 | 2 |
| Edwards-Helaire, K.C. | 71 | 302 | 4.3 | 52 | 3 |
| *Knight, NY-J | 85 | 300 | 3.5 | 48 | 1 |
| Lawrence, Jac. (QB) | 62 | 291 | 4.7 | 24 | 5 |
| McKinnon, K.C. | 72 | 291 | 4.0 | 30 | 1 |
| Kelley, LA-C | 69 | 287 | 4.2 | 22 | 2 |

## PASS RECEIVING

| | Rec | Yds | Avg | Lg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hill, Mia. | 119 | 1710 | 14.4 | 64 | 7 |
| Adams, L.V. | 100 | 1516 | 15.2 | 60t | 14 |
| Diggs, Buf. | 108 | 1429 | 13.2 | 53t | 11 |
| Waddle, Mia. | 75 | 1356 | 18.1 | 84t | 8 |
| Kelce, K.C. (TE) | 110 | 1338 | 12.2 | 52 | 12 |
| Cooper, Cle. | 78 | 1160 | 14.9 | 55 | 9 |
| Kirk, Jac. | 84 | 1108 | 13.2 | 49 | 8 |
| *G. Wilson, NY-J | 83 | 1103 | 13.3 | 60 | 4 |
| Chase, Cin. | 87 | 1046 | 12.0 | 60t | 9 |
| Higgins, Cin. | 74 | 1029 | 13.9 | 59t | 7 |
| Jeudy, Den. | 67 | 972 | 14.5 | 67t | 6 |
| Smith-Schuster, K.C. | 78 | 933 | 12.0 | 53 | 3 |
| Pittman, Ind. | 99 | 925 | 9.3 | 28 | 4 |
| Williams, LA-C | 63 | 895 | 14.2 | 55 | 4 |
| D. Johnson, Pit. | 86 | 882 | 10.3 | 37 | 0 |
| Andrews, Bal. (TE) | 73 | 847 | 11.6 | 36 | 5 |
| Peoples-Jones, Cle. | 61 | 839 | 13.8 | 42 | 3 |
| Davis, Buf. | 48 | 836 | 17.4 | 98t | 7 |
| Sutton, Den. | 64 | 829 | 13.0 | 51 | 2 |
| Z. Jones, Jac. | 82 | 823 | 10.0 | 59t | 5 |
| Meyers, N.E. | 67 | 804 | 12.0 | 48t | 6 |
| *Pickens, Pit. | 52 | 801 | 15.4 | 42 | 4 |
| Palmer, LA-C | 72 | 769 | 10.7 | 50t | 3 |
| Engram, Jac. (TE) | 73 | 766 | 10.5 | 36 | 4 |
| Boyd, Cin. | 58 | 762 | 13.1 | 60t | 5 |
| Allen, LA-C | 66 | 752 | 11.4 | 46 | 4 |
| Freiermuth, Pit. (TE) | 63 | 732 | 11.6 | 57 | 2 |
| Ekeler, LA-C (RB) | 107 | 722 | 6.7 | 23 | 5 |
| Cooks, Hou. | 57 | 699 | 12.3 | 44 | 3 |
| Hollins, L.V. | 57 | 690 | 12.1 | 60 | 4 |
| Valdes-Scantling, K.C. | 42 | 687 | 16.4 | 57 | 2 |
| Njoku, Cle. (TE) | 58 | 628 | 10.8 | 38 | 4 |
| Campbell, Ind. | 63 | 623 | 9.9 | 49 | 3 |
| *Pierce, Ind. | 41 | 593 | 14.5 | 47 | 2 |
| Everett, LA-C (TE) | 58 | 555 | 9.6 | 26 | 4 |
| Conklin, NY-J (TE) | 58 | 552 | 9.5 | 30 | 3 |
| Ch. Moore, Hou. | 48 | 548 | 11.4 | 52 | 2 |
| Parker, N.E. | 31 | 539 | 17.4 | 43 | 3 |
| Carter, LA-C | 46 | 538 | 11.7 | 35 | 3 |
| C. Davis, NY-J | 32 | 536 | 16.8 | 66t | 2 |
| M. Jones, Jac. | 46 | 529 | 11.5 | 37 | 3 |
| Woods, Ten. | 53 | 527 | 9.9 | 41 | 2 |
| Knox, Buf. (TE) | 48 | 517 | 10.8 | 45 | 6 |
| McKinnon, K.C. (RB) | 56 | 512 | 9.1 | 56t | 9 |
| Henry, N.E. (TE) | 41 | 509 | 12.4 | 39 | 2 |
| Akins, Hou. (TE) | 37 | 495 | 13.4 | 46 | 5 |
| N. Collins, Hou. | 37 | 481 | 13.0 | 58 | 2 |
| Robinson, Bal. | 48 | 458 | 9.5 | 31 | 2 |
| *Okonkwo, Ten. (TE) | 32 | 450 | 14.1 | 48 | 3 |
| Moore, NY-J | 37 | 446 | 12.1 | 42 | 1 |

## SACKS

| | |
|---|---|
| Garrett, Cle. (DE) | 16.0 |
| C. Jones, K.C. (DT) | 15.5 |
| Judon, N.E. (LB) | 15.5 |
| Highsmith, Pit. (LB) | 14.5 |
| Crosby, L.V. (DE) | 12.5 |
| Quinn. Williams, NY-J (DT) | 12.0 |
| Uche, N.E. (LB) | 11.5 |
| Ca. Heyward, Pit. (NT) | 10.5 |
| Houston, Bal. (LB) | 9.5 |
| Ngakoue, Ind. (DE) | 9.5 |
| Hughes, Hou. (DE) | 9.0 |
| Autry, Ten. (DE) | 8.0 |
| Buckner, Ind. (DT) | 8.0 |
| Chubb, Den.-Mia. (LB) | 8.0 |
| Hendrickson, Cin. (DE) | 8.0 |
| Mack, LA-C (LB) | 8.0 |
| V. Miller, Buf. (LB) | 8.0 |
| Rousseau, Buf. (DE) | 8.0 |
| Simmons, Ten. (DE) | 7.5 |
| Wise, N.E. (DE) | 7.5 |
| Lawson, NY-J (DE) | 7.0 |
| Phillips, Mia. (LB) | 7.0 |
| Walker, Ten. (DE) | 7.0 |
| Epenesa, Buf. (DE) | 6.5 |
| Fox, LA-C (DE) | 6.5 |
| Hubbard, Cin. (DE) | 6.5 |
| Dr. Jones, Den. (DE) | 6.5 |
| Allen, Jac. (LB) | 6.0 |
| Ingram, Mia. (LB) | 6.0 |
| *Karlaftis, K.C. (DE) | 6.0 |
| Paye, Ind. (DE) | 6.0 |

## INTERCEPTIONS

| | Int | Yds | Avg | Lg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fitzpatrick, Pit. | 6 | 94 | 15.7 | 34 | 1 |
| Simmons, Den. | 6 | 51 | 8.5 | 23 | 0 |
| *Pitre, Hou. | 5 | 57 | 11.4 | 29 | 0 |
| Jo. Jones, N.E. | 4 | 89 | 22.3 | 55 | 1 |
| McCourty, N.E. | 4 | 66 | 16.5 | 36 | 0 |
| Byard, Ten. | 4 | 57 | 14.3 | 28 | 0 |
| Bell, Cin. | 4 | 56 | 14.0 | 46 | 0 |
| *Thomas, Ind. | 4 | 51 | 12.8 | 35 | 0 |
| Delpit, Cle. | 4 | 36 | 9.0 | 40 | 0 |
| M. Williams, Bal. | 4 | 33 | 8.3 | 33 | 0 |
| Bates, Cin. | 4 | 28 | 7.0 | 16 | 0 |
| Poyer, Buf. | 4 | 6 | 1.5 | 6 | 0 |
| Wallace, Pit. | 4 | 6 | 1.5 | 3 | 0 |
| Milano, Buf. | 3 | 84 | 28.0 | 43t | 1 |
| Cisco, Jac. | 3 | 72 | 24.0 | 59t | 1 |
| Jenkins, Jac. | 3 | 64 | 21.3 | 52t | 1 |
| Sneed, K.C. | 3 | 57 | 19.0 | 26 | 0 |
| Dugger, N.E. | 3 | 55 | 18.3 | 39t | 2 |
| *Lloyd, Jac. | 3 | 42 | 14.0 | 19 | 0 |
| Smith, Chi.-Bal. | 3 | 41 | 13.7 | 19 | 0 |
| Callahan, LA-C | 3 | 37 | 12.3 | 26t | 1 |
| Ty. Campbell, Jac. | 3 | 32 | 10.7 | 29 | 0 |
| Joyner, NY-J | 3 | 31 | 10.3 | 27 | 0 |
| Humphrey, Bal. | 3 | 26 | 8.7 | 26 | 0 |
| Sutton, Pit. | 3 | 26 | 8.7 | 26 | 0 |
| Thornhill, K.C. | 3 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ward, Cle. | 3 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |

## SCORING-KICKERS

| | PAT | FG | Pct | Lg | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tucker, Bal. | 31/32 | 37/43 | .860 | 58 | 142 |
| Carlson, L.V. | 35/36 | 34/37 | .919 | 57 | 137 |
| Bass, Buf. | 48/50 | 27/31 | .871 | 56 | 129 |
| Folk, N.E. | 32/35 | 32/37 | .865 | 54 | 128 |
| Patterson, Jac. | 36/37 | 30/35 | .857 | 53 | 126 |
| J. Sanders, Mia. | 41/44 | 26/32 | .813 | 55 | 119 |
| Zuerlein, NY-J | 28/29 | 30/37 | .811 | 60 | 118 |
| McPherson, Cin. | 40/44 | 24/29 | .828 | 59 | 112 |
| Fairbairn, Hou. | 24/24 | 29/31 | .935 | 56 | 111 |
| McLaughlin, Ind. | 21/21 | 30/36 | .833 | 54 | 111 |
| McManus, Den. | 25/27 | 28/36 | .778 | 55 | 109 |
| *York, Cle. | 35/37 | 24/32 | .750 | 58 | 107 |
| Butker, K.C. | 38/41 | 18/24 | .750 | 62 | 92 |
| *Dicker, Phi.-LA-C | 24/24 | 21/22 | .955 | 48 | 87 |
| Bullock, Ten. | 28/28 | 17/20 | .850 | 51 | 79 |
| Boswell, Pit. | 18/18 | 20/28 | .714 | 59 | 78 |
| Wright, K.C.-Pit.-K.C. | 15/15 | 15/18 | .833 | 59 | 60 |
| Hopkins, LA-C | 12/12 | 9/10 | .900 | 43 | 39 |
| Bertolet, Car.-LA-C | 6/6 | 3/3 | 1.000 | 28 | 15 |
| *Shudak, Ten. | 1/1 | 3/4 | .750 | 38 | 10 |
| Vizcaino, N.E.-Ariz-N.E. | 3/3 | 2/2 | 1.000 | 46 | 9 |
| *Sciba, Pit. | 1/1 | 2/2 | 1.000 | 38 | 7 |
| Lambo, Ten. | 3/4 | 0/0 | — | — | 3 |
| Reid, K.C. | 1/2 | 0/0 | — | — | 1 |

## SCORING-NON-KICKERS

| | TD | TDR | TDP | Ret | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ekeler, LA-C (RB) | 18 | 13 | 5 | 0 | 108 |
| Adams, L.V. (WR) | 14 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 84 |
| Chubb, Cle. (RB) | 13 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 80 |
| Henry, Ten. (RB) | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 78 |
| Kelce, K.C. (TE) | 12 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 74 |
| Jacobs, L.V. (RB) | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 72 |
| Diggs, Buf. (WR) | 11 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 66 |
| McKinnon, K.C. (RB) | 10 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 62 |
| Harris, Pit. (RB) | 10 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 60 |
| Chase, Cin. (WR) | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 54 |
| Cooper, Cle. (WR) | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 54 |
| Hill, Mia. (WR) | 9 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 54 |
| Mixon, Cin. (RB) | 9 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 54 |
| Kirk, Jac. (WR) | 8 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 48 |
| Waddle, Mia. (WR) | 8 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 48 |
| Allen, Buf. (QB) | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 44 |
| Higgins, Cin. (WR) | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 44 |
| Davis, Buf. (WR) | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 42 |
| Meyers, N.E. (WR) | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 38 |
| Murray, N.O.-Den. (RB) | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 38 |
| Edwards-Helaire, K.C. (RB) | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 36 |
| Hardman, K.C. (WR) | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 36 |
| Jeudy, Den. (WR) | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 36 |
| Knox, Buf. (TE) | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 36 |
| Perine, Cin. (RB) | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 36 |
| Singletary, Buf. (RB) | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 36 |
| Stevenson, N.E. (RB) | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 36 |
| J. Wilson, S.F.-Mia. (RB) | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 36 |
| Akins, Hou. (TE) | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 32 |
| Andrews, Bal. (TE) | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 32 |
| Boyd, Cin. (WR) | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 32 |
| Etienne, Jac. (RB) | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 32 |
| Z. Jones, Jac. (WR) | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 32 |
| *Pickens, Pit. (WR) | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 32 |
| Burrow, Cin. (QB) | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Drake, Bal. (RB) | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 30 |
| Duvernay, Bal. (WR) | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 30 |
| Gesicki, Mia. (TE) | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 30 |
| *Bre. Hall, NY-J (RB) | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 30 |
| Lawrence, Jac. (QB) | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| McKenzie, Buf. (WR) | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 30 |
| Mostert, Mia. (RB) | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 30 |

## PUNT RETURNS

| | Ret | Yds | Avg | Lg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Mar. Jones, N.E. | 29 | 362 | 12.5 | 84t | 1 |
| Carter, LA-C | 29 | 339 | 11.7 | 28 | 0 |
| Berrios, NY-J | 21 | 240 | 11.4 | 22 | 0 |
| Darden, T.B.-Cle. | 33 | 345 | 10.5 | 24 | 0 |
| Taylor, Cin. | 33 | 340 | 10.3 | 27 | 0 |
| Hines, Ind.-Buf. | 27 | 264 | 9.8 | 28 | 0 |
| King, Hou. | 33 | 309 | 9.4 | 31 | 0 |
| *Washington, Den. | 32 | 271 | 8.5 | 30 | 0 |
| Agnew, Jac. | 25 | 205 | 8.2 | 22 | 0 |
| Rodgers, G.B.-Hou. | 20 | 139 | 7.0 | 20 | 0 |

## KICKOFF RETURNS

| | Ret | Yds | Avg | Lg | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Flowers, Ind. | 23 | 715 | 31.1 | 89 | 0 |
| Hines, Ind.-Buf. | 19 | 554 | 29.2 | 101t | 2 |
| Agnew, Jac. | 21 | 547 | 26.0 | 54 | 0 |
| *Ford, Cle. | 30 | 723 | 24.1 | 48 | 0 |
| *Mar. Jones, N.E. | 27 | 645 | 23.9 | 46 | 0 |
| Berrios, NY-J | 26 | 600 | 23.1 | 42 | 0 |
| Abdullah, L.V. | 26 | 543 | 20.9 | 33 | 0 |
| *Pacheco, K.C. | 29 | 597 | 20.6 | 48 | 0 |
| Mostert, Mia. | 25 | 502 | 20.1 | 31 | 0 |
| Carter, LA-C | 26 | 497 | 19.1 | 33 | 0 |

## TEAM SCORING

| | GP | RUS | REC | PR | KR | INTR | FUMR | TOT | FG | XP | SFTY | 2-PT | PTS | PTS/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kansas City | 17 | 18 | 41 | — | — | 2 | — | 61 | 24 | 50 | 1 | 3 | 496 | 29.2 |
| Buffalo | 16 | 15 | 35 | — | 2 | 1 | — | 53 | 27 | 48 | 2 | 2 | 455 | 28.4 |
| Cincinnati | 16 | 14 | 35 | — | — | — | 1 | 50 | 24 | 40 | — | 3 | 418 | 26.1 |
| Jacksonville | 17 | 16 | 25 | — | — | 2 | 2 | 45 | 30 | 36 | — | 4 | 404 | 23.8 |
| Miami | 17 | 12 | 30 | — | — | — | 2 | 46 | 26 | 41 | 1 | — | 397 | 23.4 |
| Las Vegas | 17 | 12 | 28 | — | — | 1 | 2 | 43 | 34 | 35 | — | — | 395 | 23.2 |
| L.A. Chargers | 17 | 15 | 26 | — | — | 1 | — | 42 | 31 | 40 | 1 | 2 | 391 | 23 |
| New England | 17 | 12 | 19 | 1 | — | 5 | 2 | 39 | 32 | 32 | — | 1 | 364 | 21.4 |
| Cleveland | 17 | 19 | 19 | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | 42 | 24 | 35 | — | 1 | 361 | 21.2 |
| Baltimore | 17 | 14 | 19 | — | 1 | — | — | 34 | 37 | 31 | — | 2 | 350 | 20.6 |
| Pittsburgh | 17 | 16 | 12 | — | — | 1 | — | 29 | 34 | 26 | — | 3 | 308 | 18.1 |
| Tennessee | 17 | 16 | 16 | — | — | 1 | — | 34 | 20 | 32 | — | 1 | 298 | 17.5 |
| N.Y. Jets | 17 | 13 | 15 | — | — | — | — | 29 | 30 | 28 | 2 | — | 296 | 17.4 |
| Houston | 17 | 7 | 20 | — | — | 1 | — | 29 | 29 | 24 | 1 | 1 | 289 | 17 |
| Indianapolis | 17 | 8 | 17 | — | — | 2 | — | 28 | 32 | 23 | — | 1 | 289 | 17 |
| Denver | 17 | 11 | 18 | — | — | — | — | 29 | 28 | 25 | 1 | 1 | 287 | 16.9 |

## PUNTING

| | No | Yds | Lg | Avg | TB | Net |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Townsend, K.C. | 53 | 2672 | 76 | 50.4 | 4 | 45.6 |
| *Stonehouse, Ten. | 90 | 4779 | 74 | 53.1 | 9 | 44.0 |
| A. Cole, L.V. | 59 | 2884 | 67 | 48.9 | 1 | 43.9 |
| Cooke, Jac. | 58 | 2862 | 70 | 49.3 | 6 | 43.8 |
| Johnston, Hou. | 88 | 4229 | 67 | 48.1 | 4 | 42.6 |
| Waitman, Den. | 96 | 4470 | 59 | 46.6 | 6 | 41.5 |
| Scott, LA-C | 73 | 3186 | 60 | 43.6 | 5 | 41.5 |
| Martin, Buf. | 45 | 2146 | 67 | 47.7 | 5 | 41.3 |
| Harvin, Pit. | 69 | 3072 | 69 | 44.5 | 5 | 41.1 |
| Bojorquez, Cle. | 61 | 2959 | 76 | 48.5 | 7 | 41.0 |
| *Stout, Bal. | 57 | 2618 | 69 | 45.9 | 7 | 40.9 |
| Morstead, Mia. | 61 | 2828 | 66 | 46.4 | 2 | 40.6 |
| Haack, Ind. | 70 | 3133 | 70 | 44.8 | 3 | 40.6 |
| Mann, NY-J | 83 | 3889 | 72 | 46.9 | 8 | 40.6 |
| Palardy, N.E. | 42 | 1781 | 58 | 42.4 | 5 | 36.4 |

# 2022 NFC TEAM STATISTICS

## OFFENSE

| | Ariz. | Atl. | Car. | Chi. | Dal. | Det. | G.B. | LA-R | Minn. | N.O. | NY-G | Phil. | S.F. | Sea. | T.B. | Wash. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GAMES (Won-Lost)** | 4-13 | 7-10 | 7-10 | 3-14 | 12-5 | 9-8 | 8-9 | 5-12 | 13-4 | 7-10 | 9-7-1 | 14-3 | 13-4 | 9-8 | 8-9 | 8-8-1 |
| **FIRST DOWNS** | 326 | 330 | 281 | 278 | 347 | 376 | 334 | 293 | 382 | 305 | 352 | 385 | 347 | 346 | 346 | 339 |
| Rushing | 115 | 152 | 119 | 148 | 129 | 114 | 116 | 89 | 93 | 103 | 150 | 161 | 132 | 106 | 79 | 124 |
| Passing | 189 | 148 | 138 | 109 | 194 | 228 | 186 | 181 | 244 | 181 | 170 | 195 | 188 | 206 | 240 | 184 |
| Penalty | 22 | 30 | 24 | 21 | 24 | 34 | 32 | 23 | 45 | 21 | 32 | 29 | 27 | 34 | 27 | 31 |
| **YDS GAINED (tot)** | 5499 | 5417 | 5206 | 5233 | 6034 | 6460 | 5745 | 4769 | 6145 | 5674 | 5676 | 6614 | 6216 | 5976 | 5894 | 5615 |
| Avg per Game | 323.5 | 318.6 | 306.2 | 307.8 | 354.9 | 380.0 | 337.9 | 280.5 | 361.5 | 333.8 | 333.9 | 389.1 | 365.6 | 351.5 | 346.7 | 330.3 |
| **RUSHING (net)** | 1873 | 2718 | 2210 | 3014 | 2298 | 2179 | 2113 | 1661 | 1661 | 1982 | 2519 | 2509 | 2360 | 2042 | 1308 | 2143 |
| Avg per Game | 110.2 | 159.9 | 130.0 | 177.3 | 135.2 | 128.2 | 124.3 | 97.7 | 97.7 | 116.6 | 148.2 | 147.6 | 138.8 | 120.1 | 76.9 | 126.1 |
| Rushes | 434 | 559 | 483 | 558 | 531 | 480 | 456 | 411 | 404 | 465 | 520 | 544 | 504 | 425 | 386 | 538 |
| Yards per Rush | 4.3 | 4.9 | 4.6 | 5.4 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 3.4 | 4.0 |
| **PASSING (net)** | 3626 | 2699 | 2996 | 2219 | 3736 | 4281 | 3632 | 3108 | 4484 | 3692 | 3157 | 4105 | 3856 | 3934 | 4586 | 3472 |
| Avg per Game | 213.3 | 158.8 | 176.2 | 130.5 | 219.8 | 251.8 | 213.6 | 182.8 | 263.8 | 217.2 | 185.7 | 241.5 | 226.8 | 231.4 | 269.8 | 204.2 |
| Passes Att. | 664 | 415 | 457 | 377 | 556 | 588 | 563 | 531 | 672 | 512 | 520 | 536 | 512 | 573 | 751 | 554 |
| Completed | 433 | 257 | 267 | 223 | 355 | 383 | 364 | 347 | 448 | 338 | 346 | 350 | 338 | 399 | 499 | 344 |
| Pct Completed | 65.2 | 61.9 | 58.4 | 59.2 | 63.8 | 65.1 | 64.7 | 65.3 | 66.7 | 66.0 | 66.5 | 65.3 | 66.0 | 69.6 | 66.4 | 62.1 |
| Yards Gained | 3966 | 2927 | 3246 | 2598 | 3911 | 4444 | 3890 | 3506 | 4818 | 3969 | 3431 | 4364 | 4049 | 4282 | 4746 | 3783 |
| Sacked | 46 | 37 | 36 | 58 | 27 | 24 | 32 | 59 | 47 | 38 | 49 | 44 | 31 | 46 | 22 | 48 |
| Yards Lost | 340 | 228 | 250 | 379 | 175 | 163 | 258 | 398 | 334 | 277 | 274 | 259 | 193 | 348 | 160 | 311 |
| Had intercepted | 17 | 9 | 13 | 15 | 18 | 7 | 12 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 10 | 16 |
| Yards Opp Ret | 185 | 171 | 166 | 93 | 354 | 99 | 94 | 243 | 290 | 246 | 73 | 110 | 75 | 184 | 80 | 141 |
| Opp TDs on Int | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| **PUNTS** | 68 | 62 | 81 | 67 | 68 | 52 | 54 | 73 | 74 | 77 | 75 | 56 | 61 | 66 | 79 | 83 |
| Avg Yards | 46.4 | 45.9 | 48.5 | 45.3 | 48.4 | 48.6 | 42.8 | 47.0 | 46.7 | 46.4 | 46.2 | 43.7 | 43.9 | 48.5 | 48.8 | 46.8 |
| **PUNT RETURNS** | 35 | 18 | 34 | 23 | 29 | 20 | 35 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 29 | 35 | 33 | 16 | 38 | 44 |
| Avg Return | 8.3 | 16.2 | 6.4 | 8.6 | 10.4 | 13.2 | 9.0 | 7.3 | 6.4 | 9.0 | 6.2 | 9.2 | 10.8 | 6.8 | 10.3 | 7.6 |
| Returned for TD | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **KICKOFF RETURNS** | 31 | 28 | 31 | 38 | 22 | 34 | 47 | 33 | 36 | 27 | 26 | 30 | 26 | 30 | 28 | 41 |
| Avg Return | 22.1 | 22.6 | 24.1 | 26.2 | 23.9 | 26.1 | 25.6 | 20.1 | 25.6 | 22.0 | 21.3 | 22.1 | 23.0 | 24.3 | 21.3 | 22.0 |
| Returned for TD | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **PENALTIES** | 118 | 68 | 104 | 80 | 104 | 90 | 89 | 76 | 88 | 99 | 106 | 90 | 94 | 106 | 99 | 92 |
| Yards Penalized | 916 | 594 | 862 | 754 | 842 | 773 | 747 | 655 | 689 | 841 | 827 | 682 | 730 | 854 | 793 | 805 |
| **FUMBLES BY** | 25 | 21 | 29 | 33 | 14 | 16 | 25 | 16 | 18 | 23 | 19 | 23 | 16 | 19 | 17 | 21 |
| Fumbles Lost | 8 | 12 | 8 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 11 | 12 | 7 |
| Opp Fumbles | 23 | 12 | 16 | 25 | 28 | 19 | 19 | 15 | 20 | 18 | 28 | 22 | 21 | 24 | 25 | 17 |
| Opp Fum Lost | 9 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 17 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 7 | 13 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 9 |
| **POSS. TIME (avg)** | 29:52 | 29:48 | 28:20 | 29:31 | 29:21 | 29:55 | 31:23 | 29:39 | 29:28 | 29:31 | 30:13 | 30:33 | 31:48 | 28:43 | 29:12 | 33:02 |
| **TOUCHDOWNS** | 37 | 38 | 36 | 37 | 55 | 54 | 42 | 32 | 50 | 37 | 40 | 59 | 53 | 44 | 32 | 36 |
| Rushing | 15 | 17 | 16 | 18 | 24 | 23 | 12 | 15 | 18 | 12 | 21 | 32 | 20 | 12 | 5 | 9 |
| Passing | 17 | 17 | 16 | 19 | 28 | 29 | 27 | 16 | 30 | 24 | 17 | 25 | 30 | 30 | 26 | 24 |
| Returns | 5 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| **EXTRA-PT KICKS** | 24/27 | 33/35 | 30/32 | 27/32 | 50/53 | 47/49 | 37/39 | 31/32 | 40/46 | 33/33 | 32/34 | 53/55 | 51/53 | 41/42 | 24/25 | 24/28 |
| **2-PT CONVERSIONS** | 5/9 | 3/3 | 1/4 | 1/5 | 0/2 | 4/5 | 2/3 | 0/0 | 3/4 | 3/4 | 3/6 | 2/4 | 0/0 | 0/2 | 2/7 | 2/7 |
| **FIELD GOALS/FGA** | 28/32 | 32/37 | 33/35 | 25/27 | 29/32 | 24/30 | 25/29 | 28/30 | 26/33 | 23/31 | 29/32 | 22/25 | 27/32 | 34/37 | 31/38 | 25/30 |
| **POINTS SCORED** | 340 | 365 | 347 | 326 | 467 | 453 | 370 | 307 | 424 | 330 | 365 | 477 | 450 | 407 | 313 | 321 |

## DEFENSE

| | Ariz. | Atl. | Car. | Chi. | Dal. | Det. | G.B. | LA-R | Minn. | N.O. | NY-G | Phil. | S.F. | Sea. | T.B. | Wash. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **POINTS ALLOWED** | 449 | 386 | 374 | 463 | 342 | 427 | 371 | 384 | 427 | 345 | 371 | 344 | 277 | 401 | 358 | 343 |
| **OPP FIRST DOWNS** | 363 | 351 | 346 | 361 | 327 | 377 | 321 | 331 | 359 | 319 | 370 | 325 | 291 | 347 | 314 | 286 |
| Rushing | 124 | 136 | 125 | 151 | 119 | 135 | 129 | 106 | 113 | 122 | 134 | 115 | 77 | 130 | 103 | 102 |
| Passing | 218 | 200 | 194 | 184 | 174 | 209 | 163 | 203 | 224 | 159 | 200 | 186 | 188 | 188 | 186 | 155 |
| Penalty | 21 | 15 | 27 | 26 | 34 | 33 | 29 | 22 | 22 | 38 | 36 | 24 | 26 | 29 | 25 | 29 |
| **OPP YARDS GAINED** | 5931 | 6156 | 5953 | 6390 | 5613 | 6670 | 5721 | 5798 | 6608 | 5352 | 6089 | 5125 | 5110 | 6149 | 5513 | 5178 |
| Avg per Game | 348.9 | 362.1 | 350.2 | 375.9 | 330.2 | 392.4 | 336.5 | 341.1 | 388.7 | 314.8 | 358.2 | 301.5 | 300.6 | 361.7 | 324.3 | 304.6 |
| **OPP RUSHING (net)** | 2016 | 2214 | 2085 | 2674 | 2198 | 2491 | 2372 | 1956 | 2093 | 2218 | 2451 | 2068 | 1321 | 2554 | 2052 | 1926 |
| Avg per Game | 118.6 | 130.2 | 122.6 | 157.3 | 129.3 | 146.5 | 139.5 | 115.1 | 123.1 | 130.5 | 144.2 | 121.6 | 77.7 | 150.2 | 120.7 | 113.3 |
| Rushes | 446 | 500 | 488 | 542 | 497 | 477 | 479 | 455 | 463 | 492 | 469 | 446 | 389 | 525 | 458 | 441 |
| Yards per Rush | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.9 | 4.4 | 5.2 | 5.0 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 5.2 | 4.6 | 3.4 | 4.9 | 4.5 | 4.4 |
| **OPP PASSING (net)** | 3915 | 3942 | 3868 | 3716 | 3415 | 4179 | 3349 | 3842 | 4515 | 3134 | 3638 | 3057 | 3789 | 3595 | 3461 | 3252 |
| Avg per Game | 230.3 | 231.9 | 227.5 | 218.6 | 200.9 | 245.8 | 197.0 | 226.0 | 265.6 | 184.4 | 214.0 | 179.8 | 222.9 | 211.5 | 203.6 | 191.3 |
| Passes Att. | 593 | 561 | 580 | 481 | 550 | 560 | 478 | 556 | 617 | 536 | 568 | 556 | 593 | 547 | 570 | 514 |
| Completed | 414 | 372 | 383 | 323 | 345 | 353 | 314 | 375 | 408 | 322 | 349 | 350 | 389 | 343 | 364 | 308 |
| Pct Completed | 69.8 | 66.3 | 66.0 | 67.2 | 62.7 | 63.0 | 65.7 | 67.4 | 66.1 | 60.1 | 61.4 | 62.9 | 65.6 | 62.7 | 63.9 | 59.9 |
| Sacked | 36 | 21 | 35 | 20 | 54 | 39 | 34 | 38 | 38 | 48 | 41 | 70 | 44 | 45 | 45 | 43 |
| Yards Lost | 266 | 148 | 230 | 124 | 352 | 267 | 204 | 250 | 241 | 279 | 271 | 491 | 307 | 296 | 331 | 279 |
| **INTERCEPTED BY** | 11 | 10 | 10 | 14 | 16 | 12 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 7 | 6 | 17 | 20 | 14 | 10 | 9 |
| Yards Returned | 246 | 124 | 189 | 201 | 60 | 157 | 351 | 240 | 186 | 110 | 97 | 186 | 305 | 163 | 140 | 68 |
| Returned for TD | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| **OPP PUNT RETURNS** | 37 | 25 | 27 | 31 | 32 | 30 | 20 | 36 | 38 | 26 | 28 | 25 | 17 | 35 | 32 | 34 |
| Avg return | 9.1 | 10.0 | 8.6 | 9.1 | 8.1 | 10.4 | 9.5 | 10.3 | 7.7 | 8.9 | 9.9 | 8.1 | 9.0 | 5.9 | 11.7 | 6.4 |
| **OPP KICKOFF RET** | 20 | 21 | 33 | 32 | 21 | 34 | 61 | 15 | 34 | 23 | 30 | 30 | 51 | 38 | 34 | 15 |
| Avg return | 21.2 | 22.4 | 22.4 | 25.7 | 24.2 | 21.9 | 23.2 | 23.0 | 26.2 | 22.6 | 25.6 | 26.1 | 21.5 | 20.9 | 25.8 | 23.3 |
| **OPP TOUCHDOWNS** | 52 | 41 | 44 | 57 | 35 | 51 | 42 | 39 | 45 | 36 | 37 | 40 | 33 | 46 | 41 | 38 |
| Rushing | 21 | 15 | 17 | 31 | 9 | 22 | 18 | 12 | 18 | 14 | 16 | 15 | 11 | 21 | 12 | 10 |
| Passing | 29 | 26 | 25 | 22 | 23 | 26 | 22 | 23 | 23 | 17 | 21 | 22 | 20 | 23 | 29 | 26 |
| Returns | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 |

# 2022 AFC TEAM STATISTICS

## OFFENSE

| | Balt. | Buff. | Cin. | Clev. | Denv. | Hou. | Ind. | Jax | K.C. | L.V. | LA-C | Miami | N.E. | NY-J | Pitt. | Tenn. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GAMES (Won-Lost)** | 10-7 | 13-3 | 12-4 | 7-10 | 5-12 | 3-13-1 | 4-12-1 | 9-8 | 14-3 | 6-11 | 10-7 | 9-8 | 8-9 | 7-10 | 9-8 | 7-10 |
| **FIRST DOWNS** | 337 | 367 | 357 | 350 | 300 | 277 | 310 | 352 | 408 | 343 | 352 | 342 | 288 | 294 | 345 | 277 |
| Rushing | 167 | 128 | 96 | 142 | 105 | 90 | 91 | 114 | 105 | 122 | 93 | 93 | 98 | 79 | 129 | 104 |
| Passing | 149 | 212 | 221 | 182 | 166 | 159 | 193 | 208 | 272 | 193 | 232 | 220 | 166 | 191 | 189 | 153 |
| Penalty | 21 | 27 | 40 | 26 | 29 | 28 | 26 | 30 | 31 | 28 | 27 | 29 | 24 | 24 | 27 | 20 |
| **YDS GAINED (tot)** | 5760 | 6361 | 5768 | 5934 | 5527 | 4820 | 5298 | 6075 | 7032 | 5993 | 6108 | 6197 | 5348 | 5409 | 5488 | 5045 |
| Avg per Game | 338.8 | 397.6 | 360.5 | 349.1 | 325.1 | 283.5 | 311.6 | 357.4 | 413.6 | 352.5 | 359.3 | 364.5 | 314.6 | 318.2 | 322.8 | 296.8 |
| **RUSHING (net)** | 2720 | 2232 | 1528 | 2490 | 1935 | 1476 | 1866 | 2116 | 1970 | 2059 | 1524 | 1686 | 1812 | 1686 | 2077 | 2131 |
| Avg per Game | 160.0 | 139.5 | 95.5 | 146.5 | 113.8 | 86.8 | 109.8 | 124.5 | 115.9 | 121.1 | 89.6 | 99.2 | 106.6 | 99.2 | 122.2 | 125.4 |
| Rushes | 526 | 430 | 399 | 532 | 444 | 398 | 439 | 448 | 417 | 428 | 404 | 390 | 425 | 405 | 500 | 487 |
| Yards per Rush | 5.2 | 5.2 | 3.8 | 4.7 | 4.4 | 3.7 | 4.3 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 3.8 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.4 |
| **PASSING (net)** | 3040 | 4129 | 4240 | 3444 | 3592 | 3344 | 3432 | 3959 | 5062 | 3934 | 4584 | 4511 | 3536 | 3723 | 3411 | 2914 |
| Avg per Game | 178.8 | 258.1 | 265.0 | 202.6 | 211.3 | 196.7 | 201.9 | 232.9 | 297.8 | 231.4 | 269.6 | 265.4 | 208.0 | 219.0 | 200.6 | 171.4 |
| Passes Att. | 488 | 574 | 610 | 540 | 571 | 579 | 604 | 596 | 651 | 586 | 711 | 584 | 540 | 627 | 571 | 456 |
| Completed | 300 | 361 | 418 | 335 | 345 | 352 | 398 | 394 | 435 | 359 | 485 | 368 | 358 | 357 | 364 | 285 |
| Pct Completed | 61.5 | 62.9 | 68.5 | 62.0 | 60.4 | 60.8 | 65.9 | 66.1 | 66.8 | 61.3 | 68.2 | 63.0 | 66.3 | 56.9 | 63.7 | 62.5 |
| Yards Gained | 3202 | 4291 | 4520 | 3710 | 4007 | 3642 | 3854 | 4148 | 5250 | 4182 | 4791 | 4765 | 3815 | 4040 | 3661 | 3227 |
| Sacked | 38 | 33 | 44 | 44 | 63 | 38 | 60 | 28 | 26 | 35 | 39 | 35 | 41 | 42 | 38 | 49 |
| Yards Lost | 162 | 162 | 280 | 266 | 415 | 298 | 422 | 189 | 188 | 248 | 207 | 254 | 279 | 317 | 250 | 313 |
| Had intercepted | 13 | 14 | 12 | 12 | 15 | 19 | 20 | 9 | 12 | 17 | 10 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 11 |
| Yards Opp Ret | 62 | 175 | 119 | 144 | 259 | 315 | 336 | 60 | 70 | 195 | 140 | 166 | 154 | 302 | 118 | 179 |
| Opp TDs on Int | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **PUNTS** | 57 | 46 | 59 | 61 | 96 | 88 | 71 | 58 | 53 | 59 | 73 | 61 | 80 | 83 | 69 | 90 |
| Avg Yards | 45.9 | 46.7 | 45.4 | 48.5 | 46.6 | 48.1 | 44.1 | 49.3 | 50.4 | 48.9 | 43.6 | 46.4 | 41.7 | 46.9 | 44.5 | 53.1 |
| **PUNT RETURNS** | 20 | 29 | 33 | 31 | 37 | 37 | 34 | 29 | 36 | 27 | 29 | 19 | 39 | 21 | 27 | 36 |
| Avg Return | 10.7 | 9.5 | 10.3 | 9.6 | 8.3 | 9.8 | 8.5 | 7.9 | 6.7 | 5.8 | 11.7 | 5.8 | 10.7 | 11.4 | 5.9 | 8.4 |
| Returned for TD | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **KICKOFF RETURNS** | 27 | 36 | 29 | 41 | 24 | 22 | 43 | 29 | 36 | 32 | 27 | 29 | 36 | 31 | 24 | 37 |
| Avg Return | 24.4 | 25.2 | 20.6 | 23.0 | 17.5 | 23.3 | 27.8 | 24.9 | 19.2 | 20.9 | 19.0 | 18.9 | 23.8 | 21.5 | 21.3 | 21.4 |
| Returned for TD | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **PENALTIES** | 82 | 92 | 81 | 102 | 113 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 87 | 113 | 81 | 111 | 104 | 91 | 94 | 111 |
| Yards Penalized | 678 | 709 | 623 | 865 | 970 | 644 | 794 | 674 | 838 | 932 | 635 | 881 | 841 | 866 | 711 | 956 |
| **FUMBLES BY** | 21 | 24 | 11 | 15 | 26 | 22 | 37 | 19 | 21 | 17 | 19 | 16 | 23 | 21 | 16 | 23 |
| Fumbles Lost | 8 | 13 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 14 | 13 | 11 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 12 |
| Opp Fumbles | 19 | 24 | 21 | 26 | 23 | 30 | 20 | 23 | 16 | 14 | 22 | 20 | 24 | 19 | 14 | 19 |
| Opp Fum Lost | 11 | 10 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 13 | 9 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 11 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| **POSS. TIME (avg)** | 31:10 | 29:35 | 31:55 | 31:31 | 29:29 | 28:25 | 29:49 | 29:42 | 29:56 | 30:16 | 30:29 | 29:20 | 28:54 | 28:44 | 31:13 | 29:16 |
| **TOUCHDOWNS** | 34 | 53 | 50 | 42 | 29 | 29 | 28 | 45 | 61 | 43 | 42 | 46 | 39 | 29 | 29 | 34 |
| Rushing | 14 | 15 | 14 | 19 | 11 | 7 | 8 | 16 | 18 | 12 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 16 | 16 |
| Passing | 19 | 35 | 35 | 19 | 18 | 20 | 17 | 25 | 41 | 28 | 26 | 30 | 19 | 15 | 12 | 16 |
| Returns | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| **EXTRA-PT KICKS** | 31/32 | 48/50 | 40/44 | 35/37 | 25/27 | 24/24 | 23/23 | 36/37 | 50/55 | 35/36 | 40/40 | 41/44 | 32/35 | 28/29 | 26/26 | 32/33 |
| **2-PT CONVERSIONS** | 2/2 | 2/3 | 3/6 | 1/3 | 1/2 | 1/5 | 1/5 | 4/7 | 3/5 | 0/4 | 2/2 | 0/2 | 1/4 | 0/0 | 3/3 | 1/1 |
| **FIELD GOALS/FGA** | 37/43 | 27/31 | 24/29 | 24/32 | 28/36 | 29/31 | 32/39 | 30/35 | 24/32 | 34/37 | 31/33 | 26/32 | 32/37 | 30/37 | 34/44 | 20/24 |
| **POINTS SCORED** | 350 | 455 | 418 | 361 | 287 | 289 | 289 | 404 | 496 | 395 | 391 | 397 | 364 | 296 | 308 | 298 |

## DEFENSE

| | Balt. | Buff. | Cin. | Clev. | Denv. | Hou. | Ind. | Jax | K.C. | L.V. | LA-C | Miami | N.E. | NY-J | Pitt. | Tenn. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **POINTS ALLOWED** | 315 | 286 | 322 | 381 | 359 | 420 | 427 | 350 | 369 | 418 | 384 | 399 | 347 | 316 | 346 | 359 |
| **OPP FIRST DOWNS** | 323 | 313 | 295 | 329 | 324 | 372 | 344 | 350 | 337 | 360 | 318 | 336 | 314 | 310 | 314 | 339 |
| Rushing | 91 | 103 | 102 | 129 | 109 | 150 | 127 | 114 | 102 | 126 | 119 | 98 | 90 | 117 | 95 | 93 |
| Passing | 206 | 181 | 173 | 166 | 180 | 196 | 184 | 211 | 207 | 206 | 175 | 200 | 194 | 166 | 196 | 215 |
| Penalty | 26 | 29 | 20 | 34 | 35 | 26 | 33 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 24 | 38 | 30 | 27 | 23 | 31 |
| **OPP YARDS GAINED** | 5513 | 5106 | 5371 | 5635 | 5440 | 6452 | 5678 | 6006 | 5579 | 6216 | 5884 | 5743 | 5474 | 5288 | 5617 | 5978 |
| Avg per Game | 324.3 | 319.1 | 335.7 | 331.5 | 320.0 | 379.5 | 334.0 | 353.3 | 328.2 | 365.6 | 346.1 | 337.8 | 322.0 | 311.1 | 330.4 | 351.6 |
| **OPP RUSHING (net)** | 1566 | 1673 | 1706 | 2299 | 1866 | 2894 | 2109 | 1951 | 1823 | 2087 | 2478 | 1751 | 1793 | 2068 | 1838 | 1307 |
| Avg per Game | 92.1 | 104.6 | 106.6 | 135.2 | 109.8 | 170.2 | 124.1 | 114.8 | 107.2 | 122.8 | 145.8 | 103.0 | 105.5 | 121.6 | 108.1 | 76.9 |
| Rushes | 406 | 387 | 407 | 488 | 438 | 573 | 511 | 470 | 419 | 460 | 457 | 422 | 441 | 492 | 442 | 390 |
| Yards per Rush | 3.9 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 5.1 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 5.4 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 3.4 |
| **OPP PASSING (net)** | 3947 | 3433 | 3665 | 3336 | 3574 | 3558 | 3569 | 4055 | 3756 | 4129 | 3406 | 3992 | 3681 | 3220 | 3779 | 4671 |
| Avg per Game | 232.2 | 214.6 | 229.1 | 196.2 | 210.2 | 209.3 | 209.9 | 238.5 | 220.9 | 242.9 | 200.4 | 234.8 | 216.5 | 189.4 | 222.3 | 274.8 |
| Passes Att. | 593 | 570 | 559 | 519 | 605 | 522 | 537 | 601 | 619 | 590 | 505 | 624 | 596 | 556 | 542 | 671 |
| Completed | 394 | 362 | 329 | 315 | 392 | 336 | 365 | 385 | 408 | 399 | 310 | 416 | 364 | 347 | 332 | 439 |
| Pct Completed | 66.4 | 63.5 | 58.9 | 60.7 | 64.8 | 64.4 | 68.0 | 64.1 | 65.9 | 67.6 | 61.4 | 66.7 | 61.1 | 62.4 | 61.3 | 65.4 |
| Sacked | 48 | 40 | 30 | 34 | 36 | 39 | 44 | 35 | 55 | 27 | 40 | 40 | 54 | 45 | 40 | 39 |
| Yards Lost | 305 | 288 | 163 | 211 | 245 | 217 | 267 | 203 | 388 | 192 | 287 | 290 | 348 | 306 | 287 | 264 |
| **INTERCEPTED BY** | 14 | 17 | 13 | 11 | 15 | 16 | 10 | 14 | 11 | 6 | 14 | 8 | 19 | 12 | 20 | 14 |
| Yards Returned | 105 | 165 | 133 | 57 | 89 | 253 | 141 | 232 | 225 | 141 | 166 | 115 | 383 | 69 | 152 | 149 |
| Returned for TD | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| **OPP PUNT RETURNS** | 22 | 16 | 25 | 26 | 44 | 45 | 26 | 29 | 22 | 25 | 19 | 30 | 34 | 32 | 24 | 59 |
| Avg return | 6.8 | 9.1 | 10.6 | 12.3 | 8.2 | 8.9 | 7.4 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 11.0 | 3.1 | 10.4 | 7.9 | 11.3 | 5.7 | 10.8 |
| **OPP KICKOFF RET** | 26 | 48 | 37 | 29 | 21 | 37 | 34 | 41 | 33 | 29 | 15 | 26 | 52 | 12 | 47 | 32 |
| Avg return | 21.2 | 20.2 | 21.4 | 22.3 | 21.2 | 19.0 | 23.0 | 21.5 | 23.3 | 20.1 | 21.1 | 27.8 | 25.6 | 20.9 | 24.5 | 20.3 |
| **OPP TOUCHDOWNS** | 32 | 32 | 32 | 42 | 35 | 48 | 50 | 39 | 43 | 48 | 43 | 45 | 40 | 31 | 37 | 41 |
| Rushing | 11 | 10 | 12 | 22 | 12 | 25 | 20 | 14 | 10 | 20 | 17 | 15 | 7 | 14 | 7 | 9 |
| Passing | 20 | 21 | 17 | 20 | 20 | 15 | 25 | 25 | 33 | 25 | 24 | 27 | 28 | 15 | 29 | 29 |
| Returns | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 |

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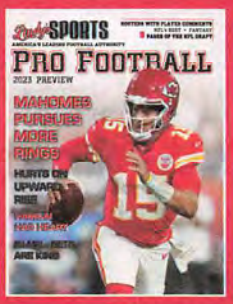

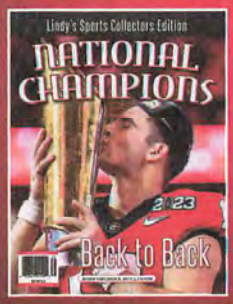

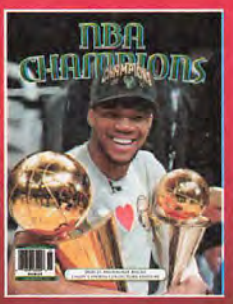


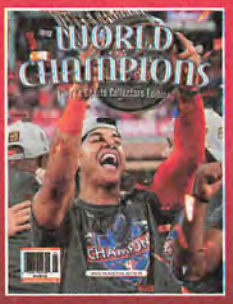

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SIGNATURE

# 2022 NFL STANDINGS

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

| AFC East | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA | TD | Home | Road | Div | AFC | NFC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| y-Buffalo | 13 | 3 | 0 | .813 | 455 | 286 | 53 | 7-1 | 6-2 | 4-2 | 9-2 | 4-1 |
| x-Miami | 9 | 8 | 0 | .529 | 397 | 399 | 46 | 6-2 | 3-6 | 3-3 | 7-5 | 2-3 |
| New England | 8 | 9 | 0 | .471 | 364 | 347 | 39 | 4-4 | 4-5 | 3-3 | 6-6 | 2-3 |
| N.Y. Jets | 7 | 10 | 0 | .412 | 296 | 316 | 29 | 3-5 | 4-5 | 2-4 | 5-7 | 2-3 |

| AFC North | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA | TD | Home | Road | Div | AFC | NFC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| y-Cincinnati | 12 | 4 | 0 | .750 | 418 | 322 | 50 | 6-1 | 6-3 | 3-3 | 8-3 | 4-1 |
| x-Baltimore | 10 | 7 | 0 | .588 | 350 | 315 | 34 | 5-3 | 5-4 | 3-3 | 6-6 | 4-1 |
| Pittsburgh | 9 | 8 | 0 | .529 | 308 | 346 | 29 | 4-4 | 5-4 | 3-3 | 5-7 | 4-1 |
| Cleveland | 7 | 10 | 0 | .412 | 361 | 381 | 42 | 4-4 | 3-6 | 3-3 | 4-8 | 3-2 |

| AFC South | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA | TD | Home | Road | Div | AFC | NFC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| y-Jacksonville | 9 | 8 | 0 | .529 | 404 | 350 | 45 | 5-3 | 4-5 | 4-2 | 8-4 | 1-4 |
| Tennessee | 7 | 10 | 0 | .412 | 298 | 359 | 34 | 3-5 | 4-5 | 3-3 | 5-7 | 2-3 |
| Indianapolis | 4 | 12 | 1 | .265 | 289 | 427 | 28 | 2-6 | 2-6-1 | 1-4-1 | 4-7-1 | 0-5 |
| Houston | 3 | 13 | 1 | .206 | 289 | 420 | 29 | 0-7-1 | 3-6 | 3-2-1 | 3-8-1 | 0-5 |

| AFC West | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA | TD | Home | Road | Div | AFC | NFC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *-Kansas City | 14 | 3 | 0 | .824 | 496 | 369 | 61 | 7-1 | 7-2 | 6-0 | 9-3 | 5-0 |
| x-L.A. Chargers | 10 | 7 | 0 | .588 | 391 | 384 | 42 | 5-3 | 5-4 | 2-4 | 7-5 | 3-2 |
| Las Vegas | 6 | 11 | 0 | .353 | 395 | 418 | 43 | 4-4 | 2-7 | 3-3 | 5-7 | 1-4 |
| Denver | 5 | 12 | 0 | .294 | 287 | 359 | 29 | 4-4 | 1-8 | 1-5 | 3-9 | 2-3 |

## NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

| NFC East | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA | TD | Home | Road | Div | NFC | AFC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *-Philadelphia | 14 | 3 | 0 | .824 | 477 | 344 | 59 | 7-2 | 7-1 | 4-2 | 9-3 | 5-0 |
| x-Dallas | 12 | 5 | 0 | .706 | 467 | 342 | 55 | 8-1 | 4-4 | 4-2 | 8-4 | 4-1 |
| x-N.Y. Giants | 9 | 7 | 1 | .559 | 365 | 371 | 40 | 5-3-1 | 4-4 | 1-4-1 | 4-7-1 | 5-0 |
| Washington | 8 | 8 | 1 | .500 | 321 | 343 | 36 | 4-5 | 4-3-1 | 2-3-1 | 5-6-1 | 3-2 |

| NFC North | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA | TD | Home | Road | Div | NFC | AFC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| y-Minnesota | 13 | 4 | 0 | .765 | 424 | 427 | 50 | 8-1 | 5-3 | 4-2 | 8-4 | 5-0 |
| Detroit | 9 | 8 | 0 | .529 | 453 | 427 | 54 | 5-4 | 4-4 | 5-1 | 7-5 | 2-3 |
| Green Bay | 8 | 9 | 0 | .471 | 370 | 371 | 42 | 5-4 | 3-5 | 3-3 | 6-6 | 2-3 |
| Chicago | 3 | 14 | 0 | .176 | 326 | 463 | 37 | 2-7 | 1-7 | 0-6 | 1-11 | 2-3 |

| NFC South | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA | TD | Home | Road | Div | NFC | AFC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| y-Tampa Bay | 8 | 9 | 0 | .471 | 313 | 358 | 32 | 5-4 | 3-5 | 4-2 | 8-4 | 0-5 |
| Carolina | 7 | 10 | 0 | .412 | 347 | 374 | 36 | 5-4 | 2-6 | 4-2 | 6-6 | 1-4 |
| New Orleans | 7 | 10 | 0 | .412 | 330 | 345 | 37 | 4-5 | 3-5 | 2-4 | 5-7 | 2-3 |
| Atlanta | 7 | 10 | 0 | .412 | 365 | 386 | 38 | 6-3 | 1-7 | 2-4 | 6-6 | 1-4 |

| NFC West | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA | TD | Home | Road | Div | NFC | AFC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| y-San Francisco | 13 | 4 | 0 | .765 | 450 | 277 | 53 | 8-1 | 5-3 | 6-0 | 10-2 | 3-2 |
| x-Seattle | 9 | 8 | 0 | .529 | 407 | 401 | 44 | 5-4 | 4-4 | 4-2 | 6-6 | 3-2 |
| L.A. Rams | 5 | 12 | 0 | .294 | 307 | 384 | 32 | 4-5 | 1-7 | 1-5 | 3-9 | 2-3 |
| Arizona | 4 | 13 | 0 | .235 | 340 | 449 | 37 | 1-8 | 3-5 | 1-5 | 3-9 | 1-4 |

**x:** *Clinched Wild Card* **y:** *Clinched Division* ***:** *Clinched Division and Homefield Advantage*

### AFC

**Wild Card Round**
L.A. Chargers 30 at JACKSONVILLE 31
Miami 31 at BUFFALO 34
Baltimore 17 at CINCINNATI 24

**Divisional Round**
Jacksonville 20 at KANSAS CITY 27
CINCINNATI 27 at Buffalo 10

**Championship Round**
Cincinnati 20 at KANSAS CITY 23

### NFC

**Wild Card Round**
Seattle 23 at SAN FRANCISCO 41
NEW YORK GIANTS 31 at Minnesota 24
DALLAS 31 at Tampa Bay 14

**Divisional Round**
New York Giants 7 at PHILADELPHIA 38
Dallas 12 at SAN FRANCISCO 19

**Championship Round**
San Francisco 7 at PHILADELPHIA 31

**Super Bowl LVII**
KANSAS CITY 38 at Philadelphia 35

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# CAREER LEADERS

COMPILED BY Pro-Football-Reference.com ▸ Active Players in 2022

## TOUCHDOWNS

| | |
|---|---|
| Jerry Rice | 208 |
| Emmitt Smith | 175 |
| LaDainian Tomlinson | 162 |
| Randy Moss | 157 |
| Terrell Owens | 156 |
| Marcus Allen | 145 |
| Marshall Faulk | 136 |
| Cris Carter | 131 |
| Marvin Harrison | 128 |
| Jim Brown | 126 |
| Adrian Peterson | 126 |
| Walter Payton | 125 |
| Larry Fitzgerald | 121 |
| Antonio Gates | 116 |
| John Riggins | 116 |
| Lenny Moore | 113 |
| Shaun Alexander | 112 |
| Tony Gonzalez | 111 |
| Barry Sanders | 109 |
| Tim Brown | 105 |
| Don Hutson | 103 |
| Steve Largent | 101 |
| Curtis Martin | 100 |
| Franco Harris | 100 |
| Frank Gore | 100 |
| Eric Dickerson | 96 |
| Priest Holmes | 94 |
| Jerome Bettis | 94 |
| Marshawn Lynch | 94 |
| Jim Taylor | 93 |
| Rob Gronkowski | 93 |
| Ricky Watters | 91 |
| Bobby Mitchell | 91 |
| Edgerrin James | 91 |
| Tony Dorsett | 91 |
| Isaac Bruce | 91 |
| Charley Taylor | 90 |
| Leroy Kelly | 90 |
| LeSean McCoy | 89 |
| Corey Dillon | 89 |
| Steve Smith | 89 |
| Thurman Thomas | 88 |
| Andre Reed | 88 |
| Don Maynard | 88 |
| Irving Fryar | 88 |
| Antonio Brown | 88 |
| ▸ DAVANTE ADAMS | 87 |
| Lance Alworth | 87 |
| Ottis Anderson | 86 |
| Hines Ward | 86 |
| Paul Warfield | 86 |

## TOUCHDOWN PASSES

| | |
|---|---|
| ▸ TOM BRADY | 649 |
| Drew Brees | 571 |
| Peyton Manning | 539 |
| Brett Favre | 508 |
| ▸ AARON RODGERS | 475 |
| Philip Rivers | 421 |
| Dan Marino | 420 |
| Ben Roethlisberger | 418 |
| ▸ MATT RYAN | 381 |
| Eli Manning | 366 |
| Fran Tarkenton | 342 |
| ▸ MATTHEW STAFFORD | 333 |
| ▸ RUSSELL WILSON | 308 |
| John Elway | 300 |
| Carson Palmer | 294 |
| Warren Moon | 291 |
| Johnny Unitas | 290 |
| Vinny Testaverde | 275 |
| Joe Montana | 273 |
| Dave Krieg | 261 |
| Sonny Jurgensen | 255 |
| Dan Fouts | 254 |
| ▸ KIRK COUSINS | 252 |
| Drew Bledsoe | 251 |
| Tony Romo | 248 |
| Boomer Esiason | 247 |
| ▸ ANDY DALTON | 244 |
| John Hadl | 244 |
| Y.A. Tittle | 242 |
| Len Dawson | 239 |
| Jim Kelly | 237 |
| George Blanda | 236 |
| Donovan McNabb | 234 |
| ▸ JOE FLACCO | 232 |
| Steve Young | 232 |
| Jay Cutler | 227 |
| Ryan Fitzpatrick | 223 |
| ▸ DEREK CARR | 217 |
| John Brodie | 214 |
| ▸ RYAN TANNEHILL | 212 |
| Matt Hasselbeck | 212 |
| Terry Bradshaw | 212 |
| Jim Hart | 209 |
| Kerry Collins | 208 |
| Kurt Warner | 208 |
| Randall Cunningham | 207 |
| Jim Everett | 203 |
| Roman Gabriel | 201 |

## POINTS SCORED

| | |
|---|---|
| Adam Vinatieri | 2,673 |
| Morten Andersen | 2,544 |
| Gary Anderson | 2,434 |
| Jason Hanson | 2,150 |
| John Carney | 2,062 |
| Matt Stover | 2,004 |
| George Blanda | 2,002 |
| Jason Elam | 1,983 |
| John Kasay | 1,970 |

## POINTS SCORED (CONT)

| | |
|---|---|
| ▸ ROBBIE GOULD | 1,961 |
| ▸ MASON CROSBY | 1,918 |
| Sebastian Janikowski | 1,913 |
| Stephen Gostkowski | 1,875 |
| Phil Dawson | 1,847 |
| Matt Bryant | 1,758 |
| Norm Johnson | 1,736 |
| David Akers | 1,721 |
| Nick Lowery | 1,711 |
| Jan Stenerud | 1,699 |
| Ryan Longwell | 1,687 |
| ▸ MATT PRATER | 1,674 |
| Lou Groza | 1,608 |
| Eddie Murray | 1,594 |
| Al Del Greco | 1,584 |
| Olindo Mare | 1,555 |
| ▸ NICK FOLK | 1,517 |
| ▸ JUSTIN TUCKER | 1,502 |
| Steve Christie | 1,476 |
| Pat Leahy | 1,470 |
| Jay Feely | 1,451 |
| Jim Turner | 1,439 |
| ▸ RYAN SUCCOP | 1,430 |
| Matt Bahr | 1,422 |
| Jeff Wilkins | 1,416 |
| Josh Brown | 1,395 |
| Mark Moseley | 1,382 |
| Jim Bakken | 1,380 |
| Fred Cox | 1,365 |
| Rian Lindell | 1,350 |
| ▸ GRAHAM GANO | 1,315 |
| Shayne Graham | 1,260 |
| Jerry Rice | 1,256 |
| ▸ GREG ZUERLEIN | 1,249 |
| Jim Breech | 1,246 |
| Pete Stoyanovich | 1,236 |
| Chris Bahr | 1,213 |
| Kevin Butler | 1,208 |
| Mike Nugent | 1,180 |
| Neil Rackers | 1,164 |
| Stephen Hauschka | 1,149 |

## PASSING YARDS

| | |
|---|---|
| ▸ TOM BRADY | 89,214 |
| Drew Brees | 80,358 |
| Peyton Manning | 71,940 |
| Brett Favre | 71,838 |
| Ben Roethlisberger | 64,088 |
| Philip Rivers | 63,440 |
| ▸ MATT RYAN | 62,792 |
| Dan Marino | 61,361 |
| ▸ AARON RODGERS | 59,055 |
| Eli Manning | 57,023 |
| ▸ MATTHEW STAFFORD | 52,082 |
| John Elway | 51,475 |
| Warren Moon | 49,325 |
| Fran Tarkenton | 47,003 |
| Carson Palmer | 46,247 |
| Vinny Testaverde | 46,233 |
| Drew Bledsoe | 44,611 |
| Dan Fouts | 43,040 |
| ▸ JOE FLACCO | 42,320 |
| Kerry Collins | 40,922 |

## PASSING YARDS (CONT)

| | |
|---|---|
| ▸ RUSSELL WILSON | 40,583 |
| Joe Montana | 40,551 |
| Johnny Unitas | 40,239 |
| ▸ ANDY DALTON | 38,150 |
| Dave Krieg | 38,147 |
| Boomer Esiason | 37,920 |
| Donovan McNabb | 37,276 |
| ▸ KIRK COUSINS | 37,140 |
| Matt Hasselbeck | 36,638 |
| Alex Smith | 35,650 |
| Jim Kelly | 35,467 |
| ▸ DEREK CARR | 35,222 |
| Jay Cutler | 35,133 |
| Ryan Fitzpatrick | 34,990 |
| Jim Everett | 34,837 |
| Jim Hart | 34,665 |
| Steve DeBerg | 34,241 |
| Tony Romo | 34,183 |
| John Hadl | 33,503 |
| Phil Simms | 33,462 |
| ▸ RYAN TANNEHILL | 33,265 |
| Steve Young | 33,124 |
| Y.A. Tittle | 33,070 |
| Troy Aikman | 32,942 |
| Ken Anderson | 32,838 |
| Cam Newton | 32,382 |
| Kurt Warner | 32,344 |
| Sonny Jurgensen | 32,224 |
| Mark Brunell | 32,072 |
| John Brodie | 31,548 |

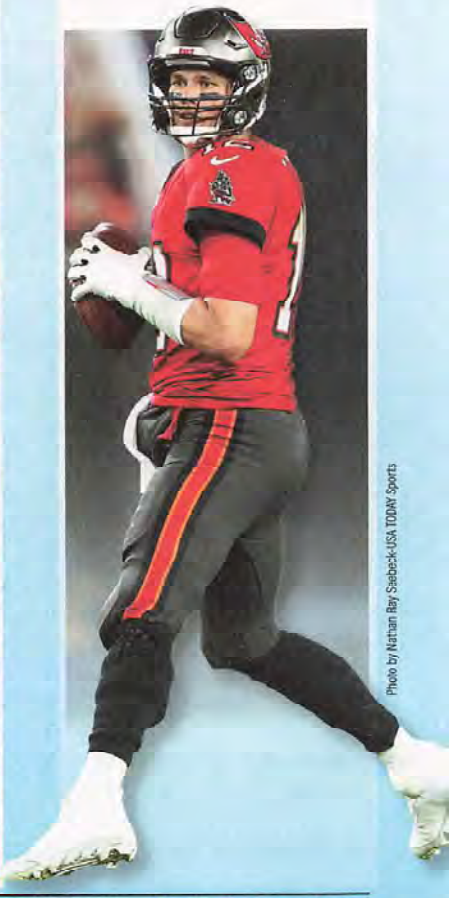

Photo by Nathan Ray Seebeck-USA TODAY Sports

## RUSHING YARDS

| | |
|---|---|
| Emmitt Smith | 18,355 |
| Walter Payton | 16,726 |
| Frank Gore | 16,000 |
| Barry Sanders | 15,269 |
| Adrian Peterson | 14,918 |
| Curtis Martin | 14,101 |
| LaDainian Tomlinson | 13,684 |
| Jerome Bettis | 13,662 |
| Eric Dickerson | 13,259 |
| Tony Dorsett | 12,739 |
| Jim Brown | 12,312 |
| Marshall Faulk | 12,279 |
| Edgerrin James | 12,246 |
| Marcus Allen | 12,243 |
| Franco Harris | 12,120 |
| Thurman Thomas | 12,074 |
| Fred Taylor | 11,695 |
| Steven Jackson | 11,438 |
| John Riggins | 11,352 |
| Corey Dillon | 11,241 |
| O.J. Simpson | 11,236 |
| LeSean McCoy | 11,102 |
| Warrick Dunn | 10,967 |
| Ricky Watters | 10,643 |
| Jamal Lewis | 10,607 |
| Thomas Jones | 10,591 |
| Tiki Barber | 10,449 |
| Eddie George | 10,441 |
| Marshawn Lynch | 10,413 |
| Ottis Anderson | 10,273 |
| Ricky Williams | 10,009 |
| Clinton Portis | 9,923 |
| Matt Forte | 9,796 |
| Joe Perry | 9,723 |
| Chris Johnson | 9,651 |
| Shaun Alexander | 9,453 |
| Earl Campbell | 9,407 |
| Ahman Green | 9,205 |
| Terry Allen | 8,614 |
| Jim Taylor | 8,597 |
| Willis McGahee | 8,474 |
| DERRICK HENRY | 8,335 |
| EZEKIEL ELLIOTT | 8,262 |
| Earnest Byner | 8,261 |
| Herschel Walker | 8,225 |
| Roger Craig | 8,189 |
| Gerald Riggs | 8,188 |
| Priest Holmes | 8,172 |
| Maurice Jones-Drew | 8,167 |
| MARK INGRAM II | 8,111 |

## RECEIVING YARDS

| | |
|---|---|
| Jerry Rice | 22,895 |
| Larry Fitzgerald | 17,492 |
| Terrell Owens | 15,934 |
| Randy Moss | 15,292 |
| Isaac Bruce | 15,208 |
| Tony Gonzalez | 15,127 |
| Tim Brown | 14,934 |
| Steve Smith | 14,731 |
| Marvin Harrison | 14,580 |
| Reggie Wayne | 14,345 |
| Andre Johnson | 14,185 |
| James Lofton | 14,004 |
| Cris Carter | 13,899 |
| Anquan Boldin | 13,779 |
| Henry Ellard | 13,777 |
| JULIO JONES | 13,629 |
| Torry Holt | 13,382 |

## RECEIVING YARDS (CONT)

| | |
|---|---|
| Andre Reed | 13,198 |
| Steve Largent | 13,089 |
| Jason Witten | 13,046 |
| Irving Fryar | 12,785 |
| Art Monk | 12,721 |
| Brandon Marshall | 12,351 |
| Antonio Brown | 12,291 |
| Jimmy Smith | 12,287 |
| Charlie Joiner | 12,146 |
| Hines Ward | 12,083 |
| Derrick Mason | 12,061 |
| Michael Irvin | 11,904 |
| Antonio Gates | 11,841 |
| Don Maynard | 11,834 |
| Calvin Johnson | 11,619 |
| Muhsin Muhammad | 11,438 |
| Rod Smith | 11,389 |
| Keenan McCardell | 11,373 |
| DeANDRE HOPKINS | 11,298 |
| DeSEAN JACKSON | 11,263 |
| Chad Johnson | 11,059 |
| Joey Galloway | 10,950 |
| Roddy White | 10,863 |
| Gary Clark | 10,856 |
| Stanley Morgan | 10,716 |
| Keyshawn Johnson | 10,571 |
| A.J. GREEN | 10,514 |
| MIKE EVANS | 10,425 |
| Harold Jackson | 10,372 |
| TRAVIS KELCE | 10,344 |
| Santana Moss | 10,283 |
| Lance Alworth | 10,266 |
| Andre Rison | 10,205 |

## RECEPTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Jerry Rice | 1,549 |
| Larry Fitzgerald | 1,432 |
| Tony Gonzalez | 1,325 |
| Jason Witten | 1,228 |
| Marvin Harrison | 1,102 |
| Cris Carter | 1,101 |
| Tim Brown | 1,094 |
| Terrell Owens | 1,078 |
| Anquan Boldin | 1,076 |
| Reggie Wayne | 1,070 |
| Andre Johnson | 1,062 |
| Steve Smith | 1,031 |
| Isaac Bruce | 1,024 |
| Hines Ward | 1,000 |
| Randy Moss | 982 |
| Brandon Marshall | 970 |
| Antonio Gates | 955 |
| Andre Reed | 951 |
| Derrick Mason | 943 |
| Art Monk | 940 |
| Antonio Brown | 928 |
| Torry Holt | 920 |
| JULIO JONES | 903 |
| Wes Welker | 903 |
| Keenan McCardell | 883 |
| Jimmy Smith | 862 |
| Muhsin Muhammad | 860 |
| DeANDRE HOPKINS | 853 |
| Irving Fryar | 851 |
| Rod Smith | 849 |
| Larry Centers | 827 |
| Steve Largent | 819 |
| Shannon Sharpe | 815 |
| TRAVIS KELCE | 814 |

## RECEPTIONS (CONT)

| | |
|---|---|
| Henry Ellard | 814 |
| Keyshawn Johnson | 814 |
| Roddy White | 808 |
| KEENAN ALLEN | 796 |
| DAVANTE ADAMS | 769 |
| Marshall Faulk | 767 |
| Chad Johnson | 766 |
| Eric Moulds | 764 |
| James Lofton | 764 |
| Charlie Joiner | 750 |
| Michael Irvin | 750 |
| Andre Rison | 743 |
| Donald Driver | 743 |
| Greg Olsen | 742 |
| Santana Moss | 732 |
| Calvin Johnson | 731 |

## INTERCEPTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Paul Krause | 81 |
| Emlen Tunnell | 79 |
| Rod Woodson | 71 |
| Dick (Night Train) Lane | 68 |
| Ken Riley | 65 |
| Charles Woodson | 65 |
| Ed Reed | 64 |
| Darren Sharper | 63 |
| Ronnie Lott | 63 |
| Dave Brown | 62 |
| Dick LeBeau | 62 |
| Emmitt Thomas | 58 |
| Everson Walls | 57 |
| Johnny Robinson | 57 |
| Eugene Robinson | 57 |
| Bobby Boyd | 57 |
| Mel Blount | 57 |
| Lem Barney | 56 |
| Pat Fischer | 56 |
| Aeneas Williams | 55 |
| Eric Allen | 54 |
| Willie Brown | 54 |
| Darrell Green | 54 |
| Deion Sanders | 53 |
| Ty Law | 53 |
| Champ Bailey | 52 |
| Jack Butler | 52 |
| Bobby Dillon | 52 |
| Jimmy Patton | 52 |
| Mel Renfro | 52 |
| Larry Wilson | 52 |
| Asante Samuel | 51 |
| Donnie Shell | 51 |
| Bobby Bryant | 51 |
| Terrell Buckley | 50 |
| Don Burroughs | 50 |
| Deron Cherry | 50 |
| John Harris | 50 |
| Yale Lary | 50 |
| Jake Scott | 49 |
| Ken Houston | 49 |
| Herb Adderley | 48 |
| Dave Grayson | 48 |
| Richie Petitbon | 48 |
| Dave Waymer | 48 |
| Willie Wood | 48 |
| Ronde Barber | 47 |
| Troy Vincent | 47 |
| Lemar Parrish | 47 |
| Jimmy Johnson | 47 |
| Ray Buchanan | 47 |

Photo by US PRESSWIRE

## SACKS

| | |
|---|---|
| Bruce Smith | 200.0 |
| Reggie White | 198.0 |
| Kevin Greene | 160.0 |
| Julius Peppers | 159.5 |
| Chris Doleman | 150.5 |
| Michael Strahan | 141.5 |
| Jason Taylor | 139.5 |
| Terrell Suggs | 139.0 |
| DeMarcus Ware | 138.5 |
| Richard Dent | 137.5 |
| John Randle | 137.5 |
| Jared Allen | 136.0 |
| John Abraham | 133.5 |
| Lawrence Taylor | 132.5 |
| Leslie O'Neal | 132.5 |
| Rickey Jackson | 128.0 |
| Derrick Thomas | 126.5 |
| Dwight Freeney | 125.5 |
| VON MILLER | 123.5 |
| Robert Mathis | 123.0 |
| Simeon Rice | 122.0 |
| Clyde Simmons | 121.5 |
| CAMERON JORDAN | 115.5 |
| J.J. WATT | 114.5 |
| Sean Jones | 113.0 |
| CHANDLER JONES | 112.0 |
| JUSTIN HOUSTON | 111.5 |
| Greg Townsend | 109.5 |
| Pat Swilling | 107.5 |
| Trace Armstrong | 106.0 |
| Elvis Dumervil | 105.5 |
| Neil Smith | 104.5 |
| Kevin Carter | 104.5 |
| AARON DONALD | 103.0 |
| Jim Jeffcoat | 102.5 |
| ROBERT QUINN | 102.0 |
| Cameron Wake | 100.5 |
| Charles Haley | 100.5 |
| William Fuller | 100.5 |
| CARLOS DUNLAP | 100.0 |
| Andre Tippett | 100.0 |
| CALAIS CAMPBELL | 99.0 |
| Joey Porter | 98.0 |
| Mario Williams | 97.5 |
| Simon Fletcher | 97.5 |
| Jacob Green | 97.5 |
| Dexter Manley | 97.5 |
| Warren Sapp | 96.5 |
| Robert Porcher | 95.5 |
| Ryan Kerrigan | 95.5 |

# KEEPING the FAITH

BY VIC CARUCCI Photo by Charles LeClaire-USA TODAY Sports

## HAMLIN'S FAITH PROVIDES STRENGTH

You'll be hard-pressed to find another moment, in a game, that caused the NFL world to be as thoroughly frozen in time as it was on the night of Jan. 2, 2023.

A tragedy was unfolding in front of a national television audience. A player's heart had stopped. A collective gasp ran through a stadium filled with fans, a field covered with panicked participants and anywhere people were tuning in for the Buffalo Bills-Cincinnati Bengals game or getting countless social media alerts that Bills safety Damar Hamlin was undergoing CPR following his sudden collapse after making a tackle with 5:58 remaining in the first quarter.

Words were hard to find, even for network announcers trying to make sense of the horrifying scene, shown over and over with Hamlin standing before keeling over backwards at midfield, with athletic trainers and paramedics rushing to his motionless body. Emotions were clogging their throats and moistening their eyes, just as was the case seemingly everywhere in and out of Cincinnati's Paycor Stadium.

There was no playbook for this. Those watching took their cues from images of terror. From quarterback Josh Allen holding his hands over each cheek with his eyes as wide as saucers. From center Mitch Morse holding the head of bawling cornerback Tre'Davious White to his chest. From Sean McDermott, kneeling and looking like anything but a man ready to coach anymore football that night. He didn't, because the game would be suspended before being ultimately cancelled.

Thanks to an automated external defibrillator, Hamlin's heart was restarted, but the trauma and fear were far from over.

"Time was just creeping by as we were trying to get a response to how he was doing," McDermott said. "Then, from that point on, it moved very, very quickly in terms of us trying to get to a decision and do the right thing."

McDermott has been lauded for the leadership he displayed during those dark moments, and another in a line of hardships for a team representing a city in which a racist supermarket shooting, taking 10 lives, had taken place eight months earlier; where there were two monumental snowstorms, one that caused a Bills game to be moved and another that resulted in more than 40 deaths.

"He has our safety and well-being at the forefront of his mind at all times," Morse said of McDermott. "When the stakes were at their highest, not only for football, but for the young man's life, that there was no thought about football, rather just the welfare of his team, and of course, Damar."

On Jan. 11, after a week of intensive treatment at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center and two days of tests at Buffalo General Medical Center, Hamlin was discharged. After communicating with teammates and coaches via video conferencing, he felt well enough to reunite with them at the Bills' training facility. He did not return to the field, but general manager Brandon Beane said at the beginning of offseason workouts in April that Hamlin was fully cleared by specialists to resume his football career. Hamlin said he was diagnosed with commotio cordis, normally triggered by a blow to the chest at the wrong point of a person's heart rhythm.

"This event was life-changing, but it's not the end of my story," he said. "I'm here to announce that I plan on making a comeback to the NFL. ... I'm riding a roller coaster of emotions, I'm taking it one day at a time and I'm trusting God. I'm walking by faith."

Hamlin's ordeal cast the brightest of spotlights on the importance of CPR training and the need for AEDs in public places, especially schools. Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death for student athletes. That was a point the NFL stressed in March when it founded the Smart Heart Coalition to advocate all 50 states adopt evidence-based policies to prevent fatalities from SCA among high-school students. Hamlin also made a March visit to the White House to meet President Biden and support the Access to AEDs Act, which would help schools obtain and use AEDs.

The 25-year-old Hamlin, who joined the Bills in 2021 as a sixth-round draft pick from the University of Pittsburgh, recognizes that he has a far larger mission than playing football. He put that in perspective while addressing another national TV audience, this time after receiving a standing ovation during NFL Honors three nights before Super Bowl LVII.

"My vision was about playing in the NFL and being the best player that I could be," he said while surrounded on stage by the medical and athletic training staffs of the Bills and Bengals. They would also join him for an on-field recognition during the Super Bowl.

A devout Christian, Hamlin continued, "But God's plan was to have a purpose greater than any game in this world." The words drew a roaring response from the crowd packing Phoenix's Symphony Hall. Hamlin paused, allowing the message to resonate.

"My entire life, I felt like God was using me to give others hope," he added. "And now, with a new set of circumstances, I can only say He's doing what He's always done. I have a long journey ahead. A journey full of unknowns and a journey full of milestones.

"But it's a lot easier to face your fears when you know your purpose."

A GoFundMe that Hamlin started in 2020, while he was still at the University of Pittsburgh and with an original goal of $2,500 to provide aid to his hometown of McKees Rocks, Pa., received a staggering influx of contributions beginning moments after his cardiac arrest. It kept surging through the balance of the season and postseason, surpassing $9 million.

"One of my favorite quotes: 'It's a blessing to be a blessing,'" Hamlin said. "With that being said, I plan to never take this position for granted, and always have an urgent approach in making a difference in the community — where I come from and also in communities across the world."

# THE FINAL YARD

BY SIMON MILHAM

We reflect on football's legacy of heroes, remembering great names who have played, coached and oversaw and called the game. We express our gratitude and appreciate the sport's inheritance as we salute some of those who died in the last year. May they rest in peace.

**DOUG SUTHERLAND** | April 5, 2022, age 73

Drafted by the Saints in 1970, the DT played 12 seasons and became part of Minnesota's "Purple People Eaters" from 1971 to 1980, playing in Super Bowls VIII, IX and XI.

**ED JASPER** | April 15, 2022, age 49

DT played nine seasons in the NFL, six of them with the Falcons from 1999-2004. He registered 17 sacks and four forced fumbles in 118 games.

**DARYLE LAMONICA** | April 21, 2022, age 80

QB dubbed the "Mad Bomber" for his strong arm, was selected for the Pro Bowl once with the Bills and four times with the Raiders, whom he led to Super Bowl II. In four seasons with the Bills (1963-66) and eight with the Raiders, Lamonica passed for 164 touchdowns and 19,154 yards.

**JOHN STOFA** | April 23, 2022, age 79

First-ever player for the Bengals after franchise founder Paul Brown acquired the rights to the QB in a trade with the Dolphins at the end of the 1967 season.

**ERICH BARNES** | April 29, 2022, age 86

Hard-hitting, six-time Pro-Bowl CB who helped propel the Giants to three consecutive NFL championship games in the early 1960s. Played 14 seasons with the Bears, Giants and Browns, often matched against the best receivers. Intercepted 45 passes and ran seven back for touchdowns.

**GEORGE SEALS** | May 6, 2022, age 79

Had a 10-season career with Washington, Chicago and Kansas City as an offensive and defensive lineman, playing 134 games.

**GINO CAPPELLETTI** | May 12, 2022, age 88

WR and kicker for the Patriots (1960-70) who was one of only three players to play in every game of the AFL's 10-year history. Earned the league's MVP award in 1964 and was a five-time all-star selection. In 11 seasons, he kicked 176 field goals, 353 extra points and snared 292 receptions for 4,589 yards and 42 touchdowns.

**BOB TALAMINI** | May 30, 2022, age 83

Offensive lineman who became a six-time AFL All-Star selection for Houston, helping the Oilers win championships in the league's first two seasons after being drafted in 1959. He finished his career by playing one season with New York, helping Joe Namath and the Jets win the franchise's only Super Bowl.

**JEFF GLADNEY** | May 30, 2022, age 25

Gladney was a standout at TCU and was a first-round pick by the Minnesota Vikings in the 2020 NFL draft. He had signed with the Cardinals when he and his 26-year-old female passenger were killed in a two-car accident in Dallas.

**MARION BARBER III** | June 1, 2022, age 38

Tenacious RB drafted by the Dallas Cowboys in 2005. He played in Dallas for six years, earning a Pro-Bowl selection in 2007 before heading to Chicago in 2011. Totaled 4,780 rushing yards, 1,330 receiving yards and 59 touchdowns during his NFL career. Died of heat stroke.

**DON PERKINS** | June 9, 2022, age 84

Perkins was a six-time Pro-Bowl selection and a three-time All-Pro during his eight-year career at RB for the Cowboys from 1961, when voted NFL Rookie of the Year. Rushed for 6,217 career yards with 42 touchdowns and is part of the Cowboys Ring of Honor.

**HUGH McELHENNY** | June 17, 2022, age 93

Halfback selected to both the Pro Football and College Football Hall of Fame, who played 13 seasons from 1952 to 1964 with the 49ers, Vikings, Giants and Lions. The six-time Pro Bowl and five-time first-team All-Pro selection, known as "The King," rushed for 5,281 yards and 38 touchdowns, and amassed 11,375 all-purpose yards.

**JAYLON FERGUSON** | June 21, 2022, age 26

Holder of the FBS record for career sacks with 45, the Ravens drafted the LB out of Louisiana Tech in 2019 and he spent three seasons with them. Died from the combined effects of fentanyl and cocaine, deemed an accident.

**TONY SIRAGUSA** | June 22, 2022, age 55

DT who became one of the game's biggest players and personalities. He spent 12 seasons in the NFL, playing for the Colts and the Ravens, where he served as a vital cog in Baltimore's historic 2000 defense, spearheading the franchise's first Super Bowl title. A locker-room practical joker, his unique character helped garner postseason success, notably as a sideline reporter/analyst for the Fox Network.

**BOB PARSONS** | July 8, 2022, age 72

Punted 884 times for the Bears, a franchise record. Set an NFL single-season record with 114 punts during the 1981 season and also caught 19 passes for 231 yards and four TDs during his career (1972-83).

**GARY MOELLER** | July 11, 2022, age 81

Long-time Michigan coach who served in various assistant roles for the Bengals (tight ends), Lions (linebackers), Jaguars (defensive coordinator) and Bears (linebackers) from 1995 to 2003.

**CHARLES JOHNSON** | July 17, 2022, age 50

A Steelers first-round draft pick in 1994, in his nine-year career the WR also had spells with the Eagles and Patriots. He put up 354 catches, 4,606 yards and 24 TDs.

**WAYNE HAWKINS** | July 28, 2022, age 84

Original member of the Raiders, the guard played 136 games over 10 seasons from 1960. Named an AFL All-Star five times and was a starter in Super Bowl II. He developed Alzheimer's in later life.

**WILLIAM WHITE** | July 28, 2022, age 56

Safety who spent the first six of his 11 seasons with the Lions, before stints with the Chiefs and Falcons. He had 20 career interceptions, including two off 49ers QB Steve Young in the fourth quarter of the NFC divisional playoff which helped Atlanta hold on to a 20-18 win and led to an appearance in Super Bowl XXXIII. Died after a battle with ALS.

**LEN DAWSON** | August 24, 2022, age 87

Dawson was a Hall of Fame QB who led the Chiefs to their first Super Bowl title in 1969. He would play for the franchise until he was 40, eventually evolving his on-field career into a successful one in front of the camera in broadcasting roles. The seven-time Pro-Bowl and dual first-team All Pro selection passed for 239 TDs and 28,711 yards in his 19-year career.

**ERNIE ZAMPESE** | August 29, 2022, age 86

Zampese spent more than 50 years coaching in both college and the NFL. He won a Super Bowl with the Cowboys during his 14-year tenure as an offensive coordinator and had stints with the Chargers, Rams and Patriots, as well as the Commanders. He won the first Award of Excellence from the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2022.

**STEVE WHITE** | August 30, 2022, age 48

The DE who died of cancer, was part of the great Tampa Bay Buccaneers defenses in the late-90s, having been drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in 1996. After his career ended (Jets, 2002), White would go on to coach in the college ranks at South Florida, and later, write about the NFL.

**GUY MORRISS** | September 5, 2022, age 71

The Eagles drafted the TCU offensive lineman in 1973, and he played for 15 seasons, which included a stop with the Patriots. Morriss went on to become head coach at Kentucky, Baylor and Division II Texas A&M-Commerce.

**SHELBY JORDAN** | September 9, 2022, age 70

Enjoyed a 12-season pro career, playing for the Patriots as an offensive lineman (1975-82) and the Raiders (1983-86). Was a member of the Silver and Black's Super Bowl XVIII team in 1983 and, 30 years later, was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

**GAVIN ESCOBAR** | September 28, 2022, age 31

A second-round selection by the Cowboys in the 2013 NFL draft, Escobar played three seasons with Dallas. The tight end also spent time with the Ravens, Browns, Dolphins and Chiefs, finishing his career with 30 catches and eight touchdowns. Escobar and 33-year-old Chelsea Walsh died after a climbing accident near Tahquitz Rock in the San Bernardino National Forest.

**MARVIN POWELL** | September 30, 2022, age 67

A Jets first-round draft pick out of USC in 1977, he would spend nine seasons in New York, earning All-Pro honors three times at right tackle. He also served as president of the NFL Players Association for two of his 11 years in the NFL.

**JIM SWEENEY** | October 1, 2022, age 60

Sweeney spent 16 seasons in the NFL, mainly with the Jets, who selected the offensive lineman out of Pitt in 1984. An ironman, he started 158 consecutive games during an 11-year stretch. Also spent time with the Seahawks before finishing his career with his hometown Steelers.

**CHARLEY TRIPPI** | October 19, 2022, age 100

The Pro and College Football Hall of Famer was a Heisman runner-up at Georgia who went on to lead the Chicago Cardinals to the 1947 NFL championship, scoring a pair of touchdowns on a 44-yard run and 75-yard punt return. One of the most versatile players, he lined up in multiple positions on offense, defense and special teams. He is the only Hall of Fame player to have 1,000 yards rushing, receiving and passing in his career.

**MIKE FANNING** | October 30, 2022, age 69

A former Notre Dame All-American, the DT was a first-round draft pick and was named to the All-Rookie team in 1975 as the Rams made it to the NFC title game. Part of an intimidating line also featuring Jack Youngblood, Fred Dryer and Larry Brooks, he appeared in Super Bowl XIV and spent eight seasons with the franchise before a season apiece with the Lions and Seahawks.

**ADAM ZIMMER** | October 31, 2022, age 38

Zimmer spent 17 seasons in the NFL as an assistant coach, following his father Mike's footsteps. He began his NFL career in 2006 with the New Orleans Saints as an assistant linebackers coach, and he would be part of the Super Bowl staff in 2010. His latest position was as an offensive analyst with the Cincinnati Bengals.

**JOHN McVAY** | October 31, 2022, age 91

Grandfather of current Rams coach Sean McVay. Giants coach during the infamous Miracle at the Meadowlands, McVay's true imprint on football came as an executive with the 49ers, where he spent 22 years, playing an integral role, along with head coach Bill Walsh, in building a dynasty that won five Super Bowls in 14 seasons.

**RAY GUY** | November 3, 2022, age 72

Hall of Fame punter and Raiders icon, Guy was selected in the first round of the 1973 draft. He earned seven Pro-Bowl nods, six first-team All-Pro honors and won three Super Bowls with the Raiders in 14 seasons.

**DAVE BUTZ** | November 4, 2022, age 72

Two-time Super Bowl-winning DT with the Commanders and Washington Ring of Fame member, the 1973 first-round pick spent 14 of a 16-year career — in which he missed just four games — in the nation's capital. Earned first-team All-Pro honors in 1984 and amassed 59.5 career sacks.

**JOHN HADL** | November 30, 2022, age 82

A two-time All-American QB at Kansas, the QB went on to earn six Pro-Bowl appearances and an All-Pro nod as an integral part of the Chargers passing attack during the AFL years, while also taking on the punting duties. He appeared in three championship games and was the NFC Player of the Year in 1973. He later coached for the Rams, Broncos and the Los Angeles Express of the USFL.

**GARY KNAFELC** | December 19, 2022, age 90

WR and TE, he was one of the last surviving members of legendary head coach Vince Lombardi's first game. In nine seasons with the Packers and one with the 49ers, Knafelc scored 21 touchdowns. He played for Green Bay from 1954 to 1962 and was the stadium PA announcer at Lambeau Field for 40 years.

**FRANCO HARRIS** | December 20, 2022, age 72

The great Steelers RB played a major part in the franchise's four Super Bowl wins in the 1970s, including a record 158-yard rushing performance in Super Bowl IX that earned him MVP honors. A first-round selection out of Penn State, Harris enjoyed a Hall of Fame career, headlined by the "The Immaculate Reception" in a 1972 playoff game against the

Raiders. A fourth-and-22 pass attempt from Terry Bradshaw bounced off Raiders safety Jack Tatum and was scooped up by Harris, who took it in for a 60-yard touchdown and Steelers win.

**RONNIE HILLMAN** | December 21, 2022, age 31

A third-round selection by the Denver Broncos in 2012, he was part of the running attack that helped the team win Super Bowl 50. A third-team All-American out of San Diego State, Hillman spent time with the Vikings, Chargers and Cowboys. He died after losing his battle with a rare kidney cancer.

**UCHE NWANERI** | December 30, 2022, age 38

Guard, who played 104 games in seven seasons with the Jaguars, died of a heart attack.

**CHARLES WHITE** | January 11, 2023, age 64

Heisman trophy-winning RB with USC and first-round pick in the 1980 NFL Draft, he played nine seasons with the Browns (1980-84) and Rams (1985-88) and led the league in rushing in 1987. He died after a battle with cancer.

**ED BEARD** | January 16, 2023, age 83

LB who played his entire career with the 49ers, seeing action from 1965-72 and becoming the first special-teams captain in history. Served as a linebackers coach for the 49ers and Saints before becoming defensive coordinator for the Lions.

**BOBBY BEATHARD** | January 30, 2023, age 86

Spent more than three decades as an NFL personnel executive with five teams, including Super Bowl champions Miami and Washington. He was part of 10 division winners and four Super Bowl winners overall, including the undefeated 1972 Dolphins. Served as GM for Washington from 1978-88 and won the Super Bowl twice with the franchise.

**STANLEY WILSON JR.** | February 1, 2023, age 40

Troubled ex-Lions RB passed away while in police custody on vandalism charges at a state mental health facility near Los Angeles. A third-round draft pick in 2005, he played two seasons before suffering a career-ending Achilles tear in a preseason game in 2008.

**LARRY COYER** | February 10, 2023, age 79

Former Broncos and Colts defensive coordinator who enjoyed a remarkable 50-plus-year coaching career with four NFL teams. Spent seven seasons with the Broncos, where he was a key part of four playoff teams and their 2005 AFC Championship game berth.

**CONRAD DOBLER** | February 13, 2023, age 72

Three-time Pro Bowl offensive lineman who had a 10-year career, mainly with the Cardinals, along with stints at the Bills and Saints. In 1977, he was labelled by *Sports Illustrated* as the "dirtiest player" in the league.

**GREG McMAKIN** | February 14, 2023, age 77

Coached for over four decades (1968-2011). Was the Seahawks defensive coordinator for four seasons and also spent three seasons as the linebackers coach for the 49ers from 2003-05. Led the University of Hawaii to an undefeated 12-0 season in 2007 in which they went to the Sugar Bowl.

**RED McCOMBS** | February 19, 2023, age 95

Visionary entrepreneur who owned over 400 businesses during his lifetime and had ownership stints with the Vikings (1998-2005). He sold the franchise to Zygi and Mark Wilf for $600 million after initially purchasing the team for $250 million — and owned the NBA's San Antonio Spurs (twice) and Denver Nuggets.

**FRED MILLER** | February 25, 2023, age 82

Two-time All-Pro and three-time Pro Bowl DT, Miller was a first-round draft pick by the Colts in 1962 and played 10 years with the franchise. Was part of the Colts' Super Bowl V-winning team. Made 124 starts, registering 10 fumble recoveries and 52 sacks.

**JERRY RICHARDSON** | March 1, 2023, age 86

Former player — he caught a touchdown pass from Johnny Unitas in the 1959 NFL Championship Game — he started the first Hardee's fast-food franchise and went on to found the Carolina Panthers in 1995, helping the team reach two Super Bowls in 2003 and 2015. Richardson had become one of the league's more powerful owners, but was forced to sell the team for a then-NFL record $2.275 billion after the 2017 season amid allegations of sexual and racial misconduct in the workplace.

**OTIS TAYLOR** | March 9, 2023, age 80

Pro-Bowl receiver in a 10-year career with the Chiefs, having been drafted in the fourth round in 1965. Had two 1,000-yard seasons and he finished his career with 7,306 yards and 57 TD catches. Best remembered for the 46-yard TD catch in the 1970 Super Bowl that clinched the Chiefs' victory over the Vikings. Died after a battle with Parkinson's disease and dementia.

**DICK HALEY** | March 10, 2023, age 85

Played five seasons with Washington, Minnesota and Pittsburgh, then having retired in 1965, he worked his way up through the Steelers organization. As their director of player personnel, he drafted seven Hall of Famers. Served the Jets in a similar capacity for 17 years and later as a player personnel analyst for the Dolphins.

**BUD GRANT** | March 11, 2023, age 95

Talented receiver for the Eagles, including catching 56 passes for 997 yards and seven TDs in 1952. He became a Hall of Fame coach who led the Vikings to four Super Bowl appearances. Was Minnesota's head coach for 18 seasons and retired with a record of 158-96-5 in the NFL.

**MIKE KADISH** | March 19, 2023, age 72

DT who spent most of his 10-year career with the Bills, playing 172 games for them between 1973-81, having been drafted 25th overall by the Dolphins in 1972. He amassed 30.5 career sacks, five fumble recoveries and one TD. Died after a 28-year battle with Parkinson's disease.

**FRANK LeMASTER** | March 23, 2023, age 71

Popular and hard-hitting LB for the Eagles from 1974 to 1982, and helped the team go from last place in 1975 to Super Bowl XV in 1981. A Pro-Bowl selection that year, he played in 136 straight games, shrugging off countless concussions and injuries.

**RONNIE LEE** | March 26, 2023, age 66

OL who played 14 seasons with Miami, Atlanta and Seattle (1979-1992), having been drafted as a tight end. He blocked for RB Earl Campbell in high school and QB Dan Marino with the Dolphins, where he had two stints, the second as a lineman.

**JOHN BROCKINGTON** | March 31, 2023, age 74

All-Pro fullback who ranks fourth on the Packers' career rushing list, having played from 1971 to 1977, during which he rushed for 5,024 yards. In 1973, he became the first NFL running back to top over 1,000 yards in each of his first three seasons, and was selected to the Pro Bowl in each of those campaigns.

**CHRIS SMITH** | April 17, 2023, age 31

DE who spent eight seasons in the NFL from 2014-21 with the Jaguars, Bengals, Browns, Raiders and Texans, appearing in 72 games.

**DAVE WILCOX** | April 19, 2023, age 80

Legendary LB who spent 11 years with the 49ers with a reputation for fearless play that earned him nickname "The Intimidator." The two-time first-team All-Pro, two-time second-team All-Pro and seven-time Pro-Bowl selection missed one game in a possible 153 because of injury and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2000.

Washington Quarterback Doug Williams

Photo by Manny Rubio -USA TODAY Sports

# A Look BACK

## 100 YEARS AGO: 1923

For the first time, all of the franchises considered to be part of the NFL fielded teams. Jim Thorpe played his second and final season for the Oorang Indians. Against the Bears, Thorpe fumbled and George Halas picked up the ball and returned it 98 yards for a touchdown, a record that would last until 1972. Canton had its second consecutive undefeated season, going 11-0-1 for the NFL title.

## 75 YEARS AGO: 1948

Plastic helmets were prohibited. A flexible artificial tee was permitted at the kickoff. Officials other than the referee were equipped with whistles, not horns, January 14.

Halfback Fred Gehrke of the Los Angeles Rams painted horns on the Rams' helmets, the first modern helmet emblems in pro football. The Cleveland Browns won their third straight championship in the AAFC, going 14-0 and then defeating the Buffalo Bills 49-7.

In a blizzard, the Eagles defeated the Cardinals 7-0 in the NFL Championship Game, December 19.

## 50 YEARS AGO: 1973

Commissioner Pete Rozelle announced that all Super Bowl VII tickets were sold and that the game would be telecast in Los Angeles, the site of the game, on an experimental basis, January 3.

Miami defeated Washington 14-7 in Super Bowl VII at Los Angeles, completing a 17-0 season, the first perfect record regular-season and post-season mark in NFL history, January 14.

The AFC defeated the NFC 33-28 in the Pro Bowl in Dallas, the first time since 1942 that the game was played outside Los Angeles, January 21.

A jersey numbering system was adopted, April 5: 1-19 for quarterbacks and specialists, 20-49 for running backs and defensive backs, 50-59 for centers and linebackers, 60-79 for defensive linemen and interior offensive linemen other than centers, and 80-89 for wide receivers and tight ends. Players who had been in the NFL in 1972 could continue to use old numbers.

Congress adopted experimental legislation (for three years) requiring any NFL game that had been declared a sellout 72 hours prior to kickoff to be made available for local televising, September 14. The legislation provided for an annual review to be made by the Federal Communications Commission.

The Buffalo Bills moved their home games from War Memorial Stadium to Rich Stadium in nearby Orchard Park. The Giants tied the Eagles 23-23 in the final game in Yankee Stadium, September 23. The Giants played the rest of their home games at the Yale Bowl in New Haven, Connecticut.

A rival league, the World Football League, was formed and was reported in operation, October 2. It had plans to start play in 1974.

O.J. Simpson of Buffalo became the first player to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a season, gaining 2,003.

## 35 YEARS AGO: 1988

Washington defeated Denver 42-10 in Super Bowl XXII to earn its second victory this decade in the NFL Championship Game. The game, played for the first time in San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium, drew a sellout crowd of 73,302. Doug Williams, the game's MVP, became the first African-American quarterback to play in a Super Bowl, January 31.

In a unanimous 3-0 decision, the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals in New York upheld the verdict of the jury that in July, 1986, had awarded the United States Football League one dollar in its $1.7 billion antitrust suit against the NFL. In a 91-page opinion, Judge Ralph K. Winter said the USFL sought through court decree the success it failed to gain among football fans, March 10.

By a 23-5 margin, owners voted to continue the instant replay system for the third consecutive season with the Instant Replay Official to be assigned to a regular seven-man, on-the-field crew. At the NFL annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, a 45-second clock was also approved to replace the 30-second clock. For a normal sequence of plays, the interval between plays was changed to 45 seconds from the time the ball is signaled dead until it is snapped on the succeeding play.

NFL owners approved the transfer of the Cardinals' franchise from St. Louis to Phoenix; approved two supplemental drafts each year — one prior to training camp and one prior to the regular season; and voted to initiate an annual series of games in Japan/Asia as early as the 1989 preseason, March 14-18.

The NFL Draft returned to a separate two-day format and for the first time originated on a Sunday. ESPN drew a 3.6 rating during their seven-hour coverage of the draft, which was viewed in 1.6 million homes, April 24-25.

Art Rooney, founder and owner of the Steelers, died at 87, August 25.

Johnny Grier became the first African-American referee in NFL history, September 4.

Commissioner Rozelle announced that two teams would play a preseason game as part of the American Bowl series on August 6, 1989, in the Korakuen Tokyo Dome in Japan, December 16.

## 25 YEARS AGO: 1998

The NFL reached agreement on record eight-year television contracts with four networks. ABC (NFL Monday Night Football) and FOX (NFC) retained their previous rights, CBS took over the AFC package from NBC, and ESPN won the right to broadcast the entire Sunday night cable package, January 13.

The Denver Broncos won their first Super Bowl by defeating the defending champion Green Bay Packers 31-24 in Super Bowl XXXII at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, January 25.

The NFL clubs approved an extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement through 2003. The extended CBA also created a $100 million fund for youth football, March 22.

The NFL clubs unanimously approved an expansion team for Cleveland to fulfill the commitment to return the Browns to the field in 1999, March 23.

The NFL Stadium at Camden Yards opened in Baltimore, Maryland before a crowd of 65,938 as the Baltimore Ravens defeated the Chicago Bears 19-14 in a preseason game, August 8.

Raymond James Stadium opened in Tampa, Florida before a crowd of 62,410 as the Tampa Bay Buccaneers defeated the Chicago Bears 27-15, September 20.

Tennessee Oilers owner Bud Adams announced the team would change its name to the Tennessee Titans following the 1998 season. The NFL announced that the name Oilers would be retired — a first in league history, November 14.

## 10 YEARS AGO: 2013

The Baltimore Ravens won their second Super Bowl, defeating the San Francisco 49ers 34-31 in Super Bowl XLVII at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans, February 3.

GE and the NFL announced the Head Health Initiative, a four-year, $60 million collaboration to advance diagnostic tools for treating concussions and the development of new materials for head protection, March 11.

Titans owner Bud Adams Jr., a founding member of the AFL, died at the age of 90, October 21.

On the field, many all-time records were set: 11,985 points were scored, the most of any season in NFL history; games averaged an all-time high 697.0 total net yards per game; and Denver's Peyton Manning passed for 5,477 yards and 55 touchdowns.

**Source:** *NFL record and Fact Book*

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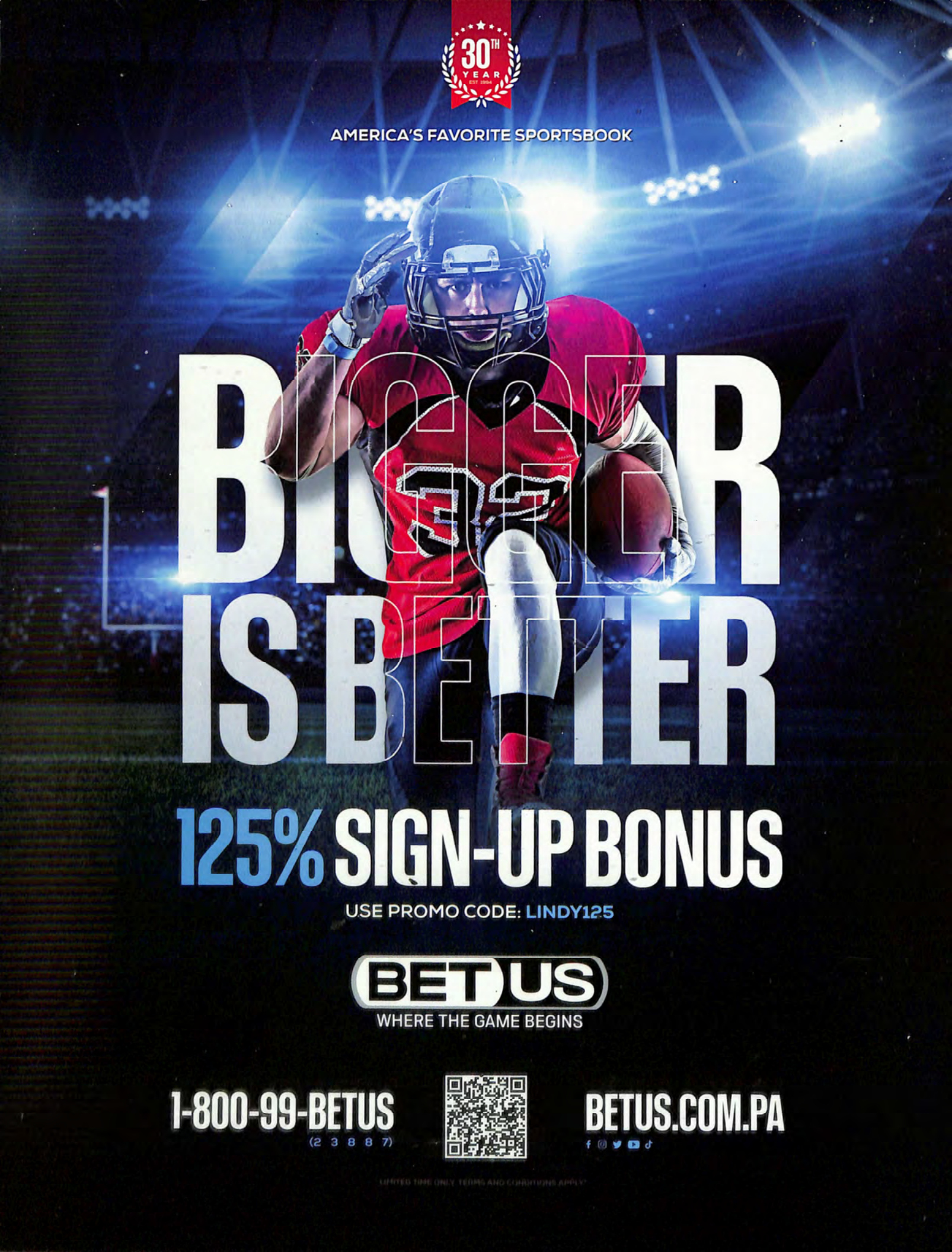
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